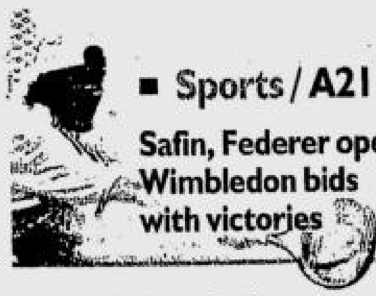

- **Sports / A21**

Safin, Federer open Wimbledon bids with victories

- **Metro / A18**

LTFRB warns: No fare matrix, no fare hike

- **News / A3**

Kristine seeks annulment from Diether

- **Business / B1**

Peso closes firmer at 55.64 to a dollar

- **Motoring /B14**

RP presidential cars waiting to be resurrected

Man of the cloth also a man of humor

JOKER IN ROBE!

By Christian Esguerra

HE WAS cutting with dictators and thieving officials but beneath the tough surface was a man who loved jokes.

"I was the ugliest among

MAN/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sin's death saddens Pope Benedict XVI

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI sent his condolences Tuesday on the death of Jaime Cardinal Sin, whom he praised for an "unfailing commitment" to promoting the dignity and unity of the people of the Philippines.

In a letter of condolence to Manila's Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Benedict said he was deeply saddened by Sin's death and said

FAMOUS/ A9

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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'Liberator of Filipinos'

He fought, and won against all odds

By Lito B. Zulueta

COMMENTARY

UNFALTERING political instincts, media savvy, ability to poke fun at himself, practical vision, homespun spirituality, and perhaps most important, longevity—these qualities enabled Cardinal Jaime Sin to define the Catholic Church in the Philippines as the foremost in Asia and a key player in the global Church.

The most political of the bishops of Manila since the end of Spanish colonialism, Sin presided over a sprawling diocese that became a spiritual, economic and political force.

He married the geopolitical strengths of his see with the inherent qualities of his personality: charisma, shrewdness, wit and a willingness to take on fights—and win them against all

HE FOUGHT/ A7

JAIME LACHICA SIN: 1928-2005

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHEN Jaime Cardinal Sin spoke, presidents listened. He was one of Asia's most prominent religious leaders, known for his vocal stances on everything from birth control to poverty, from politics to the US-led war in Iraq.

But death overtook him yesterday, before he could state his position on the tape scandal hounding President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom he had helped take power in 2001.

Ms Arroyo led the nation in mourning Sin. "History will mark this day of sadness when a great liberator of the Filipino people and a champion of God passed away," she said in a statement.

She declared a period of national mourning, to last until Sin's burial on June 28. She ordered flags at all government buildings and installations flown at half-staff from sunrise of June 25 until sunset of June 28.

Days before the driving force of People Power I and II passed away at 76, expectations were high that Sin would speak up on the tape suggesting that fraud had attended the presidential election of 2004.

According to his younger brother,

LIBERATOR/ A6

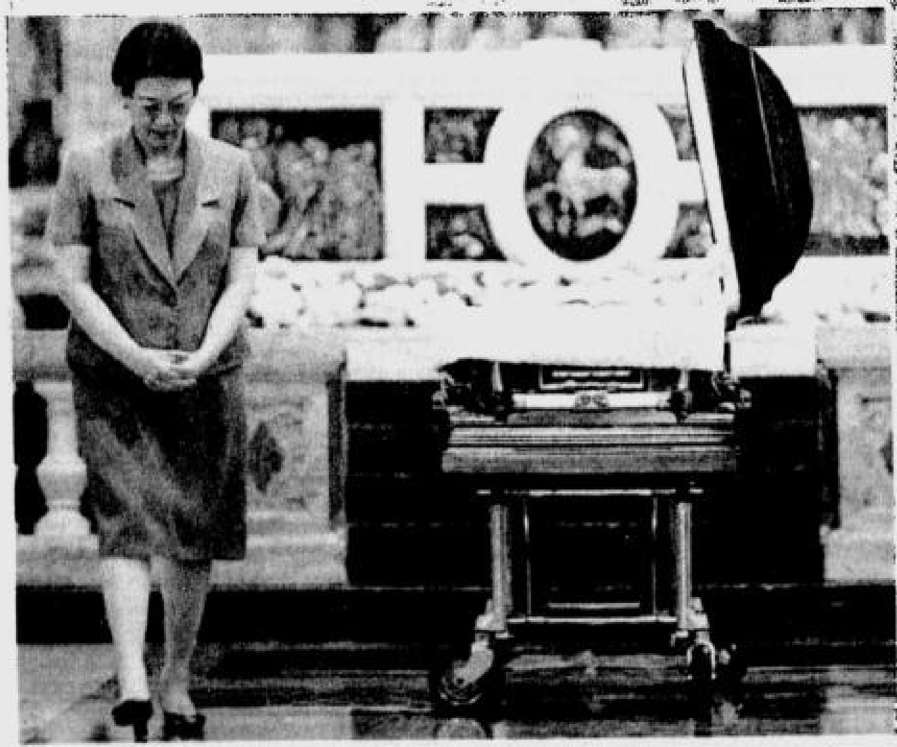
FACT BOX

FOLLOWING are some key facts about Jaime Cardinal Sin, the driving force behind two Philippine "people power" revolts who died yesterday morning.

- Jaime Lachica Sin was born on Aug. 31, 1928 in New Washington, Aklan, on Panay Island. Jim or Amie as was fondly called was the 14th of 16 children.
- Sin's father Sin Puat Co (Juan), from Xiamen, settled in the Philippines and became a prosperous businessman. His mother Maima Lachica was from landed gentry in Kalibo, Aklan. His father was Buddhist who converted to Catholicism upon his marriage to Maxima but became as devout a Catholic as his wife.
- Ordained in 1954, he became the youngest member of the Vatican's College of Cardinals when he was made a prince of the Church at the age of 47.
- Became archbishop of Manila in March 1974
- Elected president of the

FACT BOX/ A8

> *I consider everything as God's handiwork … I am just an instrument. I am just like the donkey the Lord rode on. I cannot boast of anything. Everything is grace.*



LONGTIME friend Corazon Aquino walks away after paying tribute to the man who helped sweep her to the presidency in 1986 and served as the country's moral compass for two decades. AP

'He loved us with all his heart'

OF THE many things that can be said of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, "one memory should never be forgotten—he loved the Filipino people with all his heart," Corazon Aquino said yesterday.

The former President noted that Sin died only a couple of months after the passing of the much loved Pope John Paul II: "We in the Philippines mourn the passing of yet another shepherd who, through difficult years, had guided us through apathy, selfishness and confusion to regain our bearing as a God-fearing, freedom-loving and compassionate people."

"We will miss him immensely," said the widow of Benigno Aquino Jr., whose assassination in 1983 marked the beginning of the end of Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

Praise for the late cardinal was profuse as the nation struggled to come to terms with his death.

"His passing leaves a vacuum in our hearts at a time when our nation needs a voice to speak the truth for us and to us," said Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal.

"Our baptismal anointing, however, empowers us to seek the truth ourselves and to work for justice and peace in our land. This is the mission, which the Lord himself has entrusted to us. This is the mission which we must take up ourselves," Vidal added.

HE LOVED/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/22/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

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Bunye: My opinion's irrelevant

By Michael Lim Ubac

HE WAS sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo to a high-profile congressional inquiry. But like the Chief Executive, he refused to unravel the mystery surrounding the "Gloriagate" audio tape.

Insisting that he was not "competent" to comment on the issue, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told members of the joint House committee that his "opinion at this time will not be relevant."

"At this point you will ask me whose voice (it) was, I guess this will not be material anymore because many people have already heard the conversation by now ... and you may have already formed your opinion on the identity of (the female voice)," said Bunye, refusing to confirm or deny whether the voice belonged to Ms Arroyo.

President stays away

The government has said the recordings were doctored as part of a plot by the opposition to unseat the President. The tapes indicate a woman believed to be Ms Arroyo pressing a man identified by the opposition as former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano for a one-million vote margin over the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Despite a House request to be present, Ms Arroyo stayed away from the nationally televised event. On Monday, she said she did not think it was appropriate for her to comment on the controversy in the midst of so much speculation surrounding the wiretapping.

Clear majority

The President's allies, who enjoy a clear majority in the House of Representatives, said they would oppose any move to play the audio recordings to lawmakers.

"We don't want to make this hearing a circus," said Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri.

Bunye and Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation were the first witnesses to show up at the first joint hearing of five House committees that lasted five hours, mostly consumed by debates on procedural issues. It was also briefly interrupted by a scuffle between security guards and anti-Arroyo protesters who had sneaked into the Congress building and distributed compact discs of the recording.

The national police said earlier it had put its 115,000-member force on full alert ahead of large protests planned for later this week by anti-Arroyo forces calling for the President to break her silence on the allegations.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao said the police would impose a "no permit, no rally" policy, but reminded antiriot teams to exert "maximum tolerance".

"We would protect our citizens in case some groups may be planning to take advantage of the situation and create trouble," he said.

Asked by Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez whether Ms Arroyo's spokesperson had not made any judgment on the authenticity of the tape, Bunye said: "You know, it's public knowledge that I made certain comments on the identity of the voice."

This tack was a far cry from Bunye's claim on June 6 that it was unmistakably the President's voice, but he had clarified that the tape could have been doctored.

Copy of a copy ...

Realizing that such an admission could put the President on the spot, Bunye backtracked two days later, and said he was merely stating a personal opinion.

Yesterday, Bunye took pains to convince House members that he was not in the best position to authenticate the genuineness of the audio tape.

"If I can't be sure of a copy of a copy of a recording of what sounds like my voice, I can't be sure that it was the voice of another person," he said. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan, Philip Tubeza and Fe Zamora*

OPPOSITION leader Linggoy Alcuaz (center) is forcibly removed from the Batasan gallery after he led a group of protesters that attempted to distribute "Gloriagate" CDs. JOAN BONDOC

Comelec execs won't quit—Abalos

By Jerome Aning

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday rejected calls for him and officials of the poll body to resign in the wake of the wiretapping scandal implicating President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Abalos said it was "irresponsible" of opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña and Negros Rep. Jacinto Paras to call for the entire commission to step down.

"Why, if one senator errs, should the 23 other senators resign, too?" he said.

The Comelec chief said he had no idea where Garcillano was.

Garcillano, who was purportedly caught on tape allegedly discussing with the President plans to rig the 2004 elections, has not surfaced since different versions of the allegedly wiretapped conversations emerged.

Media reports over the weekend claimed that the controversial ex-commissioner had surreptitiously left the country.

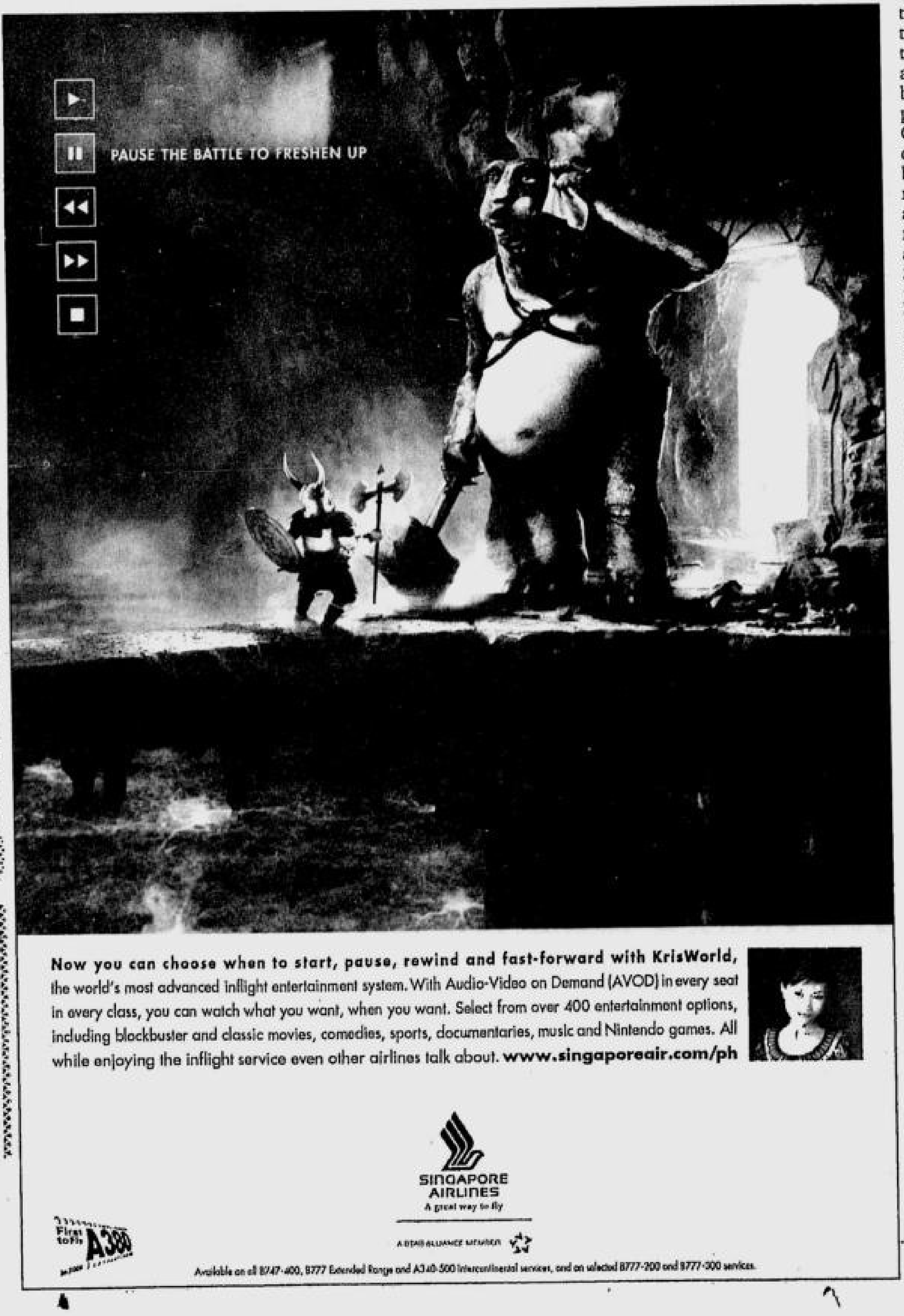
"Since we last spoke June 9, he [Garcillano] has made no attempt to reach me. I don't know if the other commissioners were contacted by him," Abalos said.

An airport security officer at the Lumbia airport in Cagayan de Oro City claimed yesterday that Garcillano left the city aboard a private Learjet at about 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said he knew Garcillano so he was sure that it was him.

But he said he did not know where the jet was headed for.

Earlier, airport officials said they had no record of Garcillano leaving the Lumbia airport. With Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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Gambia, RP sign 3 deals

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and visiting President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh of the Republic of Gambia yesterday oversaw the signing of three major agreements reaffirming their countries' strong bilateral relations.

These were the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the establishment of a bilateral consultative committee between the two countries' foreign affairs agencies; an MOU between the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and a building and manpower supply agreement between SK General Enterprises of Gambia and Century Properties and Concorde International Services of the Philippines.

During the state luncheon in honor of the Gambian president, Ms Arroyo said Jammeh acknowledged the role of the Philippines in the development of Gambia since its independence in 1965.

"Their (Gambia) main export product is peanuts and the variety of their peanut is called Philippine pink. It is also called Brokos because it was brought there by a Professor Brookes from the Philippines," Ms Arroyo said.

Jammeh had also noted that 70 percent of the experts in Gambia, which has a population of 1.4 million, had studied in the Philippines. "No less than their incumbent vice president studied in the Philippines," Ms Arroyo said.

Jammeh, who seized control of the former British colony in a military coup 10 years ago, announced the discovery of "large quantities" of oil off its shore early last year. *With AFP*

GMA assures SBY of fisher's rescue

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured visiting Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who is also known by his initials SBY, that Manila would do its best to rescue the remaining Indonesian fisherman still being held captive by a Muslim extremist group.

The President gave the assurance during her bilateral meeting with Yudhoyono as she urged that Manila and Jakarta strengthen their links in fighting terrorism and piracy in their waters.

"We assure your excellency that we are doing everything within our means to secure the safe release of the remaining captive," Ms Arroyo told Yudhoyono.

On March 30, three Indonesian fishermen were snatched by an armed group calling itself Jamiat al Islamiyah of Southern Philippines while fishing near Sabah in Malaysia and taken to Sulu. Army troops rescued two of them on June 12.

Ms Arroyo said the abduction demonstrated the need for both Manila and Jakarta to work together to prevent a repeat of the incident.

"That we present a joint front against transnational crimes such as terrorism and piracy is critical because lawless elements are able to move with ease across our porous borders," Ms Arroyo said.

Yudyohono was given arrival honors at Malacañang on the second day of his three-day state visit to the country.

Among those who welcomed Yudhoyono's party were President Arroyo, her Cabinet and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who made a public appearance for the first time weeks after allegations surfaced that he had accepted illegal gambling payoffs.

Saying that Indonesia was "vital to any counterterrorism and antipiracy initiative," the President expressed hope that Jakarta would ratify the Agreement on Information Exchange and the Establishment of Communication Procedures, as well as the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Anti-Piracy.

The President also asked Indonesia to support Manila's proposal to adopt a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea to "maintain and promote peace and stability in our region."

Six nations, including the Philippines, claim all or part of the mineral-rich Spratlys in the South China Sea.

Ms Arroyo also pushed for a fisheries agreement between Manila and Jakarta as she noted that their seas and waters were a "vast potential economic resource that we can work together to utilize effectively."

During the visit, Indonesia and the Philippines agreed to pool their law enforcement capabilities to fight terrorism in both countries. *(See related story on Page A3)* *With reports from AFP, AP*

Laarni snubs summons, sends lawyer instead

By Luige A. del Puerto

FORMER starlet Laarni Enriquez yesterday snubbed a police subpoena and instead sent her lawyer Rufus Rodriguez to Camp Crame to speak with investigators.

Enriquez, one of the mistresses of deposed President Joseph Estrada, through Rodriguez asked for a copy of the affidavit of TSgt. Vidal Doble of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp). But the police said this was not necessary because Enriquez had not been charged with anything.

In his affidavit, Doble said he received P2 million from former National Bureau of Investigation official Samuel Ong, who in turn told Doble the money had come from Enriquez, the police said.

According to Rodriguez, the police refused to give them a copy of Doble's as well as the other witnesses' affidavits.

"We're here to answer (the allegations), but how?" he said, adding that Enriquez still did not know what she was being charged with.

Quoting the subpoena, Rodriquez said his client was being investigated for inciting to sedition and serious illegal detention. But since the basis of the investigation was Doble's affidavit, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) should furnish them a copy, he said.

"We told the CIDG that due process requires that the person under investigation (or) subpoena should know the charges that are being lined up against him or her (and what) the bases are for the charges," Rodriguez said.

He said they would submit a counter-affidavit as soon as they had seen and evaluated Doble's affidavit.

Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the CIDG-National Capital Region, said they would ask the court to cite Enriquez for contempt if she continues to ignore the subpoena.

Another option is to provide Enriquez with Doble's affidavit and other information, but the police do not think it is necessary at this time.

"We are studying our options and we will consult with our legal unit in the next few days," Dolina said.

Dolina stressed that Enriquez was not a suspect, but someone who could "shed light" on Doble's allegations.

US experts to probe weaknesses of PNP

By Luige A. del Puerto and Nikko Dizon

AMERICAN specialists in antinarcotics, counterterrorism, immigration and customs enforcement are in the country to assess the institutional weaknesses of the Philippine National Police, the US Embassy said yesterday.

In a statement, the embassy said the study was being undertaken "to formulate a blueprint on how to resolve" the weaknesses of the local police force.

For three weeks, the US team will also travel to Cebu, Davao, Zamboanga, Basilan and Abra to examine local conditions affecting the police and will speak with non-government groups in these communities, officials said.

"The assessment is intended to support the PNP's ongoing transformation program," the embassy said.

The Australian police are also helping the PNP.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao confirmed yesterday that a handful of Australian federal police had been providing forensic expertise, training and intelligence to their Filipino counterparts, but said their operations were not covert.

"They're forensic, for training. They come and go," Lomibao said.

Agreements

Gilbert Asuque, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, said the presence of Australian police was covered by two agreements—on combating terrorism and transnational crime—which were signed during Prime Minister John Howard's visit to Manila in 2003.

Asuque denied their presence was covert, saying the visits are coordinated through the countries' foreign ministries.

The Sydney newspaper The Daily Telegraph, citing an unidentified police source, said Australian police were involved in preventing a Madrid-style bombing of the Manila light rail system, tracking terrorists and confirming that a February 2004 ferry fire that killed 118 was sparked by a terrorist bomb.

The PNP transformation program is a six-year plan that is expected to shape the modern national police. It was developed in response to several studies that identified key problems facing the PNP, such as the meddling of politicians in its administrative affairs.

Happy to share

Philippine officials yesterday briefed their counterparts from the US Department of State, Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Agency about the PNP organization.

US Embassy official Paul O'Friel said the United States was pleased that the PNP had initiated the transformation program on its own. He said US law enforcement agencies also underwent transformation programs, and they were happy to impart the lessons learned.

"We're very encouraged by the progress," O'Friel told reporters.

Indonesian police chief

Also yesterday, heads of the Indonesian and Philippine police met in Manila to follow up points discussed at a bilateral meeting on law enforcement three years ago.

Lomibao and Indonesian Police Gen. Dai Bachtiar also talked about the "mutual areas of interests" taken up during the 25th Asean Chiefs of Police Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

Following yesterday's meeting, Indonesia and the Philippines are expected to adopt "mechanisms for coordination" in the following:

- Regular exchange of information on fugitives.
- Instant consultation by any means of communication.
- Coordination in the arrest and interrogation of suspected criminals and terrorists.
- Visits by law enforcers in both countries.
- Sharing of technical and operation expertise.

Both sides have agreed to establish working groups to work out the details of these mechanisms for coordination, the PNP said in a statement. *With a report from and AFP*

Kristine seeks annulment from Diet

By Jocelyn Valle, *Contributor,* **and Jocelyn R. Uy**

KRISTINE, Diet, once

SHOW biz couple Diether Ocampo and Kristine Hermosa never publicly admitted they had tied the knot but now she wants their marriage annulled.

Through her lawyers, Hermosa filed a petition with the Makati Prosecutor's Office last Friday seeking to nullify her marriage to Ocampo on grounds that "no marriage contract was executed" when the two "formalized their relationship on July 14, 2004, in Quezon City."

Hermosa, who is Kristine Orille in real life, said in a petition that contrary to the marriage certificate they later obtained, "no ceremony took place on the 21st of September 2004 in Jaen, Nueva Ecija."

In her petition, Hermosa recalled that a friend, Col. Edgardo Divina, and his wife Susan, assisted her and Ocampo (Diether Pascual in real life) in the ceremony that was presided by Jaen Mayor Antonio Prospero Esquivel at an unspecified location in Quezon City.

According to Hermosa, she was later instructed to pick up the documents relating to their marriage from Divina's house on Sept. 26.

However, Hermosa said that what she received was an application for a marriage license and four copies of a marriage certificate. The application for marriage license showed that it was applied for on Aug. 23 and was issued on Sept. 3.

"On the other hand, it was indicated in the marriage certificate that marriage license no. 0040528 was issued on Sept. 10, 2004, and that the marriage took place in Jaen, Nueva Ecija, although the date and time of the marriage were left blank. It was only later that the date 21 September 2004 was inserted," the petition read.

Kristine pointed out in her petition that it was not possible for her and Ocampo to have gotten married on Sept. 21, 2004, because she was working on the set of the movie "Enteng Kabisote" from 8 a.m. on that day until the next morning.

The supposed groom, on the other hand, was in a gym in Quezon City until 1 p.m. and went home to his house on Tomas Morato Ave. He also attended a meeting for his TV show then, "Marina."

The petition said it was also impossible for the two to have wed because the "freest time they both had on that day was before 8 a.m." It was, however, unlikely for them to have traveled to Jaen, Nueva Ecija, which is approximately 90 to 110 km from Quezon City, in the early morning to get married there since they both had just arrived from Australia at about 10 p.m. the previous night.

Hermosa's lawyers, Josabeth V. Alonso and Lai-Lani Angelita B. Barcena of Alonso and Partners, said the marriage of their client to Ocampo should be annulled because it did not meet the formal requisites of marriage as provided for in the Family Code.

The lawyers also cited Article 4 of the Family Code which said that marriages shall be void from the beginning if "solemnized without a marriage license."

The case was raffled off the other day to Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 136, a family court. Judge Rebecca Mariano will hear the case.

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RP mum on suggestion it head Asean next year

By Nikko Dizon

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs declined to comment yesterday on the suggestion of a ranking Malaysian official that the Philippines assume the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) next year should Burma decide to relinquish its turn as protests continued over its military government.

In a phone interview, Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque told the INQUIRER the DFA did not have a response to the statement made by Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar which was published in wire reports.

Syed Hamid said the Philippines follows Burma, listed under its other name of Myanmar, in the alphabetical rotation for the chairmanship of Asean.

Syed Hamid, however, said the other Asean members should agree to this first.

"I think by rationalizing it, logically, this is what should happen but it needs to be formalized," Syed Hamid was quoted as saying.

Asuque said Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo's statement issued on the recent birthday of Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi reiterated the Philippine position on the Burma issue.

In a two-page statement, Romulo said Burma should release Suu Kyi from house arrest, include her National League for Democracy party in the crafting of a new constitution, implement its road map to democracy, and allow the United Nations secretary general's special envoy to visit Rangoon soon.

Romulo met with Suu Kyi eight years ago on Oct. 17, 1997.

He had earlier told reporters Asean was "waiting with bated breath" for Burma's response to the Asean member-nation's demands, particularly on the release of Suu Kyi, when they convene for the Asean ministerial meet in Vientiane, Laos, next month.

Envoy to continue plugging away for Filipinos in Israel

THE COUNTRY'S controversial ambassador to Israel, Antonio Modena, is set to resume his duties there, two weeks after he was summoned home for "consultations" after his remarks about mistreatment of Filipinos almost set off a diplomatic row with the Jewish state.

Modena said he was "not going to sit around and do nothing" and would pursue his complaint about the alleged mistreatment of Filipino workers by Israeli immigration police.

"I will continue to pursue our country's interest in Israel," said Modena who was quoted in a magazine interview comparing the allegedly harsh treatment of foreign workers by Israeli immigration police to that suffered by Jews at the hands of the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police.

The comments drew sharp reactions from officials of Israel, many of whose citizens were victims of the Nazi Holocaust, who demanded an apology.

But Modena was supported by various migrant workers and labor groups in the Philippines. About 30,000 Filipinos work as maids and caregivers in Israel.

Amid the controversy, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced that Modena would be returning for "consultations".

Upon his arrival in Manila on June 8, Modena said he had issued a formal apology to the Israeli government for his "use of the words Nazi, Gestapo and racist," but did not regret accusing the immigration police of mistreatment of foreign workers.

He claimed he was in Manila to meet with tourism, trade and agriculture officials to discuss with them "the keen interest shown by Israel" in Philippine products.

In an interview yesterday, Modena stressed that the Philippines and Israel continued to have good relations.

"There never was a problem with our relations with Israel," he said.

He maintained that he was able to bring the Filipinos' plight to the attention of Israeli officials and hoped that the complaint against the immigration police would be addressed. *Nikko Dizon*

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ANTONIO CALIPJO GO
Academic Supervisor, MARIAN SCHOOL OF QUEZON CITY

In the June 17 issue of the Philippine Star, Ma. Erlinda Sibal, president of PHOENIX PUBLISHING HOUSE, refuted my allegation that twelve textbooks published by them are defective. She said that despite the fact that PHOENIX "has not received any adverse comments from the over 200 schools currently using these books," they nevertheless "voluntarily submitted them for evaluation last February to the National Book Development Board (NBDB)." These books, according to her, passed the NBDB's Textbook Review Committee composed of three English experts (Rowena Andrada, Ma. Elizabeth Bermio, Felicidad Santos) from the Department of English, School of Humanities, of the Ateneo de Manila University and experts from the National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (NISMED) of the University of the Philippines. The textbooks, they all said, are "commendable." Strangely enough, she went on to say that "correction booklets are now in the process of being distributed nationwide."

In the June 18 issue of the Philippine Star, NBDB chair Dennis Gonzalez, Ph. D., went out of his way to defend the books of PHOENIX, calling me "a lone critic of unknown expertise" and obliquely admonishing me to "be more responsible in making accusations or pronouncements about errors in textbooks."

I have come to realize my mistakes after reading these press releases. Mea culpa, I say. I cannot go against people who are intellectually superior to me and because of that, I now take back my allegations. I hereby make public part of the article (titled "Donkeys in a World of Horses") that I submitted to the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Star as a way of asking forgiveness from the entities and people I may have hurt. Forgive me. To all the Filipino school children whom I may have misled with my false accusations, I say : I am an ignorant fool. Forgive me. These books are commendable, worthy of your confidence and trust. What I first thought to be errors are not errors. The items listed below are all written in these books, there for you and all the world to see. They are scientifically correct facts and grammatically correct sentences.

Scientifically correct facts, concepts and ideas taken from a series of six textbooks titled SIMPLY SCIENCE IN THE NEXT CENTURY written by six teachers of the ATENEO DE MANILA GRADE SCHOOL. (Ma. Lourdes Antonio, Janet Trinidad, Maristel Feliciano, Marlon Moralejo, Ma. Aurora Mangio, Rosefe Dawates. Ofelia Castañeda, Series Coordinator)

• Insulin: hormone that allows glucose to move from the blood to the cells during photosynthesis. • Mummification: drying process that forms fossils. • Skull: body framework in the head. • Clouds are examples of objects that move. • Reflectors of bicycles are artificial sources of light. • The colors of a rainbow are the same as the colors of a white light.• Examples of transparent materials are clear glass, clear plastic and cooking oil. • Concave mirrors have surfaces that curve outward at the center while convex mirrors curve inward at the center. • Axis: real or imaginary line extending through the earth from North Pole to South Pole. • Plants and animals are living things. They breathe because they have lungs. They perspire because they have sweat glands. • Muro-ami: fishing method using sticks and rods. • Stars are arranged in an orderly way. About 88 constellations cover the sky completely. • Toilet bowl cleaner: open box of baking soda. • The Philippine tarsier is the only one of its kind in the world. • Measurement is a way of marking objects of their size, weight, height and their distances from one another. To know the distance of one object to another, you can measure it by using your thumb, hand or foot. Draw a ball 5 thumbs away from a tree. Measure the length of the string at one ruler. Then swing it. Then cut the length of the string by one-half ruler. Swing it again. • Liquids move. Some move slowly and others move fast. • Plants move in place when they grow. They have parts that move and grow. • Sun: our resource of light and delight. • Boils: common ear ailments. • If you turn on a flashlight, only a small amount of the original chemical energy is changed into light. Most of it is converted into heat energy. • Light bends as it slows down when it hits a substance like glass or water. • The core of the earth is made up of boiling mud. • Ribs: bones at the sides of your chest. • Very hard steel is a brittle metal. • Weak lungs make people prone to diseases, like a cough. • Heavy substances present in the air limit the growth of plants. • We rub body parts when we feel cold. Friction provides warmth during cold season. • Wind vane: measures wind direction. • Gold: most expensive metal. • Pupa: stage of an animal that undergoes metamorphosis. • Vertebrae: separate bones that make up the backbone. • Spiders can constrict their abdomen to make themselves look like ants. • A cactus can survive in the desert because it has thick leaves that can store water. • Electric current: movement of negative charges. • Wedges and screws are used in lifting heavy objects. • Man: the most important among all natural resources. • Rubber, which improves the stopping power of a material, is a safe material and it cannot withstand heat. • Without your brain, you could not read this book. • How do you open a swinging door• Earth is still round. • All parts of the body grow. Body parts can move. • Some animals are young; others are about to leave this world. Some people you know have left you forever. Why are some plants young and others are old • Can anybody be capable of reproduction? Nobody can just involve himself in sexual reproduction any time he or she wants. • When light is away, the place becomes dark. Toy cars or real cars do not move at the same speed. • Plants and animals have ways of growing in a natural way. Let nature take its natural course. • North wind comes from north, south wind comes from south. • North is necessary in using a compass. • To view a solar eclipse, use you own hands. Just hold up both hands with your fingers overlapping at right angles. The holes between your fingers make pinholes.• Cut into the skin through the snake bite and suck out the venom. • Clean your ears with your little finger and soapy water. • Save water in the kitchen by keeping a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator and by steaming vegetables. • Slide on a smooth surface using your body. Do the same on a rough surface. Be sure to hold on to a stable object to avoid accidents while doing the activity. • To lessen friction, surfaces of rubbing objects should be smoothened. • Add supporting rods for your house if it is weak. • Get a partner. Feel the middle part of his or her back from the nape to the buttocks. How does it feel? Let your partner do the same to you.

Advice to Grade Five Pupils : Have regular checkups for STDs even in the absence of symptoms. Learn the common symptoms of STDs. Seek medical help immediately if any suspicious symptoms develop. • Avoid smoking. • Do you know when a person is having difficulty breathing? It is very necessary that you learn some symptoms of breathing difficulty to know how to respond appropriately. • What can you do to make a patient feel better? Talk to the patient over the phone. Make him or her feel special. However, advise the patient to have the phone disinfected after use to avoid contamination. • Women have a tendency to acquire more urethral and bladder infections than men. This may be because the opening of the urethra is closer to the anus. The way a woman cleans this area after relieving herself can influence her chances of contracting a UTI or vaginal infections. When parents train their toddlers some toilet manners, the common mistake is to wipe young girls from back to front. They get used to this feeling and when they start to wipe themselves, they also go from back to front. This technique wipes bacteria from the anal area toward the vagina and urethra.

Facts, concepts and ideas, written in grammatically correct English, taken from a series of six textbooks titled HARNESSING ENGLISH ARTS TODAY written by six teachers and/or administrators of ST. THERESA'S COLLEGE OF QUEZON CITY. (Gloria Lucia Umali, Norma Serrano, Catherine Franco, Emilia Mesa, Virginia Antonio, Ma. Concepcion Franco. Gloria Cruz, Series Coordinator. Sr. Josefina Nebres, ICM, Project Director)

• His ears got sick. • Many moons passed away. • The late pupil missed her lessons. • He gave a final greeting before he died. • The barbarous animals gathered around him. • Mooney cooked some cookies. • Smoothen her wounded pride. • Business is brisk and money is rolling air. • The best proof of the fruit's goodness is in crunching its freshness. • The enkantada fell in love to a handsome man who fell in love to a pretty lady. • Who is the editor-in-charge in your school organ? • Have you experienced being loved by whom? • Karla exuded a wealth of manners despite of her poverty. • Time has run out of me. • The tutor tooted the flute. • The symphony was so huge and hard to play. • Those doves cuckoo with the breeze. • One morning, Mr. Sleeves arrived seated at their desks.• He struck at the monster, serving its wings with his sword. • Overpowering durian. • Family neighbor. • Eight-month birthday. • Thoughtless earthworm. • It's raining with stars! • What happened to him because of watching too much TV? • What part of the newspaper are you informed of who passed away and other details about wake and burial? • You cannot insist on your point of view without any proof to ground your views. • What can help uncomplicate our already complicated lives? •There was a city so great that one could be blinded at the sight of many people. • Lives and properties are covered with mud brought about by flash floods. • They will be reading a record player for their practice. • My mother is a buzzing bee when she works. • His lips were as white as vinegar when he broke her mom's vase. • The sea was restless like a giant tossing and snoring in his sleep. • Our nature still abounds. • The children's eyes are marbles twinkling like stars. • Keeping one's surroundings clean is a noble act. • Listen to your heart to detect what is gift in others. • Speak loudly for the protection of the earth. • Reaching the top is worth hurting others. • When you are good to others, you are best to yourself. • Give it until it hurts no more. • Kill two birds in one stone. • Muslims face the sun while praying to God more than once a day. • Whales and dolphins have short necks. • The mother penguin lays eggs on ice. • A bird with a hard head is a woodpecker. • The flamingo has a hard head that can be used as a hammer. • Crickets creak, sheep boo, cows mow. • The coconut tree has branches so free. • Diamond is a hard stone. • The earth is a basketball that rolls and rolls. • Essence: aspect of a thing. • Present: a certain object. •Eye-opener: something which lightens someone. • During the early days, the string of kites was a piece of vine. • The wind is a picture that cannot be seen. • Nose: not toes for it smells even your soles "click!" take a pose and let's have a toast! • Feet are too far from your teeth, don't forget to care for them after you skipped. •Bearing lavender blossoms, banana plants make our roads bright. • On New Year's Day in Bulgaria, people exchange New Year presents instead of Christmas gifts. • Jesus is faithful and loyal to His teachings. • The Franciscan Order is journeying toward the new heaven and new earth. • Christmas is the Philippines' all too brief yet the longest celebration in the world. • Vaccination of antibiotics are ways to prevent diseases. • The news we get from radio or TV is called a radio broadcast; if the broadcast is by telephone or telegram, it is called a telecast. • The boys fed the monkeys and teased the whales. • All this bending over did not build a muscle in Paolo's arms. • 50 fireflies came dancing around the bonfire. • He loved to play so much that he kept his toys the moment he became aware of them. • My dog Hadji is very clever: he can bark when he is hungry. • Goats are in the meadows, eating grass always munching, mee-mee, with class. • The gardener cut down the bamboo, lopped off its branches and hollowed out its insides. • Afraid to disturb the bats, I drove them farther into the cave. • Tell the driver to exhaust the engine. • He was too stunned to stand after meeting an unbelievably just man. • Dad said that his leather belt with the gem will last forever if we pack it fast. • Life is so much better now that I'd like to turn back the time. • Troy sang a soft song. • He was interested in gloomy poetry. • Write a feeling poetry. • How well they danced, how suited their grace. • She's four, polite, and bright little monster. • Shake, wait and play with the maid. • Weigh the snake and the whale. • The turtle won the football game by holding the ball in its shell. • Fingers that are too small belong to my brother so tall. • Choose an animal that best describes each of the members of your family. • How can you compare the face of an elderly woman to punctuation marks? • Gray were the geese and green was the grazing. • Can you imagine an imaginary menagerie manager imagining an imaginary menagerie? • Nobody jumps in our family. • His stick was a snake. • The hunchback could not stand straight.

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Man of the cloth also a man of humor

From page A1

my brothers," the late Jaime Cardinal Sin often quipped to explain why his parents allowed him to become a priest, the prelate's personal photographer of 30 years, Noli Yamsuan, recounted yesterday.

Even fellow men of the cloth didn't escape his flair for humor. On seeing a bald priest who was a close friend, he would grab and kiss him on the head.

Yamsuan said he was himself a regular butt of Sin's jokes, recalling a time when he got lost in a Russian cave during a foreign trip with the cardinal in 1984.

"I was taking his pictures and before I knew it, he was gone," Yamsuan said. His subject had taken off apparently in another direction while he was not looking.

"When he found me, he was laughing so hard. He never forgot about that incident."

Love for food

Sin also had a legendary appetite.

Peachy Yamsuan, a member of Sin's media staff for 31 years, swore he was never a big eater; he simply loved good food.

His favorites were varied: Steak, Caesar's salad, a Chinese soup called "Buddha Jumps Over the Fence," *lechon* [roast pig] and Cardinal Mendoza brandy.

Dr. Ramon Sin, his younger brother, said the cardinal began losing his appetite only after his condition started to worsen.

But the late prelate was, above all, an intensely prayerful man, fellow bishops said.

Sin's happy mix of traits was probably best captured by a large portrait displayed near his coffin at the Manila Cathedral. It shows him flashing a boyish, if not mischievous, smile.

That's vintage Sin, according to close friends.

On his knees for hours

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, his former auxiliary bishop in Manila, recalled how Sin would kneel before the altar for hours.

"There was a point when I preferred not to join him in prayer because I was hearing his prayers," he jokingly told reporters. "He prayed for hours. He was very intense."

Once, Cruz said he hitched a ride in Sin's service car. All the time they were in the car, the cardinal intently listened to a Gregorian chant.

"His was old-school devotion and spirituality," said Peachy.

One uncanny gift of Sin was his ability to sense the death of fellow bishops, according to Cruz.

"Once we were in Rome and he suddenly asked us to call Manila because a bishop had just died," he recalled. "To our surprise, it was true! He could really sense it."

Black humor

Every time Sin would start talking about a bishop's death, Cruz said he and his fellow prelates would joke and ask, "Who's next?"

"You know, bishops die in threes," Cruz said. "So once someone dies we all become afraid!"

It was common knowledge in Sin's inner circle how he spent hours praying in his private chapel at his Villa San Miguel residence before sounding the trumpet for Edsa I.

His prayers over, he then spoke live on Radio Veritas, calling on the people to troop to Edsa and help protect then Philippine Constabulary chief Fidel Ramos and then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who had just turned their backs on Ferdinand Marcos.

The rest was history.

Sin could not have gathered such a huge crowd, estimated by some at one million, had it not been for his charisma, priests said. It was something he had developed through constant interaction with the media.

"He was a good communicator," Yamsuan said. "He realized the value of the media and how he should communicate."

He didn't have to look far for the victims of his jokes. Greeting guests at Villa San Miguel, he would say: "Welcome to the House of Sin."

The village he had erected in Sta. Ana, Manila, for the poorest residents there is known as the "Village of Sin."

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, an Across the Nation story on Page A17—"Cops open passage in Benguet mine picket"—misstated the name of the mayor of Mankayan. The incumbent mayor is Manalo Galuten—not Materno Luspian. Luspian was the former mayor of the town.

The same story misstated the name of the president of the Lepanto Employees Union. The union president is Ninian Langagan—not Langayan.

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'Liberator of Filipinos'

From page A1

Dr. Ramon Sin, the cardinal was waiting for more information and clearer evidence on the gravest crisis to plague Ms Arroyo.

He always appeared agitated whenever he watched TV newscasts on the tape scandal, Ramon Sin told the INQUIRER on Monday afternoon.

"He said he would always be on the side of the truth," the doctor said.

The prelate—for years afflicted with a kidney ailment brought on by diabetes—was at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan, having been taken there Sunday night because of a slight but lingering fever.

The situation was quite unlike the time then President Joseph Estrada's accuser, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, personally presented evidence of wrongdoing to the cardinal, Ramon Sin said.

At that time, he said, the cardinal wasted no time in speaking up against Estrada because the evidence was clear.

Yesterday, Ramon Sin lamented that now there was no way of finding out what the cardinal's thoughts were on the tape scandal.

'Let us go'

Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas, the cardinal's longtime protege, and Fr. Rufino Sescon, his personal secretary, were at his bedside when the end came at 6:15 a.m. yesterday.

Villegas said the cardinal's last words were: *"Vamos, vamos,* let us go."

"I was there and toward the end, the heart just gave way," Villegas recalled. "The heart rate dropped, and he passed on to eternal life."

Shortly before 1 p.m., the dark mahogany casket bearing the remains of the man whom Fr. Anton Pascual, Caritas Manila executive director, described as a "prophet of our time, a real prince of the Church and a champion of the poor" arrived in regal fashion at the Manila Cathedral.

Sin looked serene in his mitre and robes accented by gold trim. He wore his bishop's ring.

A copy of the Book of Gospels was placed atop the casket.

In her statement, Ms Arroyo said she had been guided "many times" by Sin's "wisdom and profound love for the poor and oppressed."

"[F]or he lived in the fountain of the people like no other in his time," she said.

Amid the prevailing politically charged climate, Ms Arroyo reminded the people of Sin's "dream of a Philippines united in peace and justice."

"[It] beckons us to bring down the Tower of Babel and build a nation one and undivided, in memory of a hero of Edsa I and II—a blessed man who never failed to unite Filipinos during the most crucial battles against tyranny and evil," she said.

Long shadow

In a homily during the concelebrated requiem Mass, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales likened his predecessor to an old tree whose "greatness is not measured by the number of its fruit but by the length of the shadow it casts upon the landscape."

Present at the Mass was former President Corazon Aquino, whom he helped bring to power in 1986.

Ordained in 1954, Sin became the youngest member of the Vatican's College of Cardinals when he was made a prince of the Church at the age of 47.

The 14th of 16 children of a Chinese merchant and a Filipino woman, Sin had a sense of humor about his name, often referring to his residence as "the house of Sin."

He burst onto the international stage in February 1986 when he called on Filipinos to surround Camps Crame and Aguinaldo on Edsa to protect then Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who had broken away from the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

That led to Edsa I, which toppled the dictatorship and sent the Marcoses fleeing from Malacañang. It became a harbinger of change for authoritarian regimes worldwide.

But the country's problems continued, partly because of the endemic corruption that blossomed under Marcos.

"We got rid of Ali Baba, but the 40 thieves remained," Sin once quipped.

Edsa II

Although he was already ailing when Joseph Estrada was elected President in 1998, Sin was a constant critic of the latter's mismanagement and led influential clergymen in calling on the President to resign after a corruption scandal engulfed his administration in November 2000.

He helped lead large street protests that led to Edsa II and Estrada's ouster in January 2001.

In May of that year, impoverished followers of Estrada, denouncing Sin and politicians who had forced their leader from power, stormed Malacañang in a riot that killed six people.

Sin issued an unprecedented apology to the poor shortly thereafter, acknowledging that the Church had neglected them and made them easy prey for selfish, powerful people.

He offered reconciliation to the poor and assured them that the Church was not "anti-Estrada, but pro-morality."

Although revered by many Filipinos, Sin came under criticism over his active advocacies, including natural family planning.

He had a thorny relationship with President Fidel Ramos, a Protestant whose 1992-98 administration promoted the use of artificial birth control.

Christ in politics

Sin also openly criticized the Ramos administration for moves to amend the 1987 Constitution, saying it could endanger provisions safeguarding the nation from future dictatorships.

At one point, Ramos called Sin "the divine commander in chief."

Sin stepped down as head of the Manila archdiocese, which he served for nearly three decades, when he reached the retirement age of 75 two years ago.

"My duty is to put Christ in politics. Politics without Christ is the greatest scourge of our nation," he said at the ceremony marking his retirement.

Declining health forced Sin to curtail his appearances, but he remained a staunch guardian of democracy.

Hours before hundreds of soldiers and junior officers staged a mutiny at the Oakwood apartments in July 2003, he urged Filipinos to be vigilant against groups plotting to violently overturn the country's democratic institutions.

The 19-hour uprising failed.

"As I enter a new chapter in my twilight years, I can say with gratitude that I have given my very best to God and country," Sin said after the late Pope John Paul II accepted his resignation. "I beg pardon from those I might have led astray or hurt. Please remember me kindly."

Father Sescon said the cardinal had been deeply affected by John Paul's passing in April.

"He truly was affected by the loss of our beloved Holy Father," Sescon said, recalling that Sin had wanted to attend the Pope's funeral but had been too ill.

'Deeply in love'

In a TV interview, Ramon Sin remembered his brother as a man who was "deeply in love with the Filipino people," but who was also full of good humor and laughter, even during tense moments.

He told the INQUIRER that the cardinal would leave Filipinos, among many legacies, the value of "optimism."

"He was always on top of the situation," said Noli Yamsuan, Sin's photographer of 30 years. "Even when he was at the ICU (intensive care unit), he was aware of what was happening in the country."

"If there was a problem, he was the type who did not hesitate to go right to the heart of the matter," said Peachy Yamsuan, a member of Sin's media staff for 31 years.

The burial of the cardinal in the crypt beneath the Manila Cathedral has been set for Tuesday morning.

The Western Police District (WPD) has secured the vicinity of the cathedral in anticipation of the mourners expected to pay their last respects.

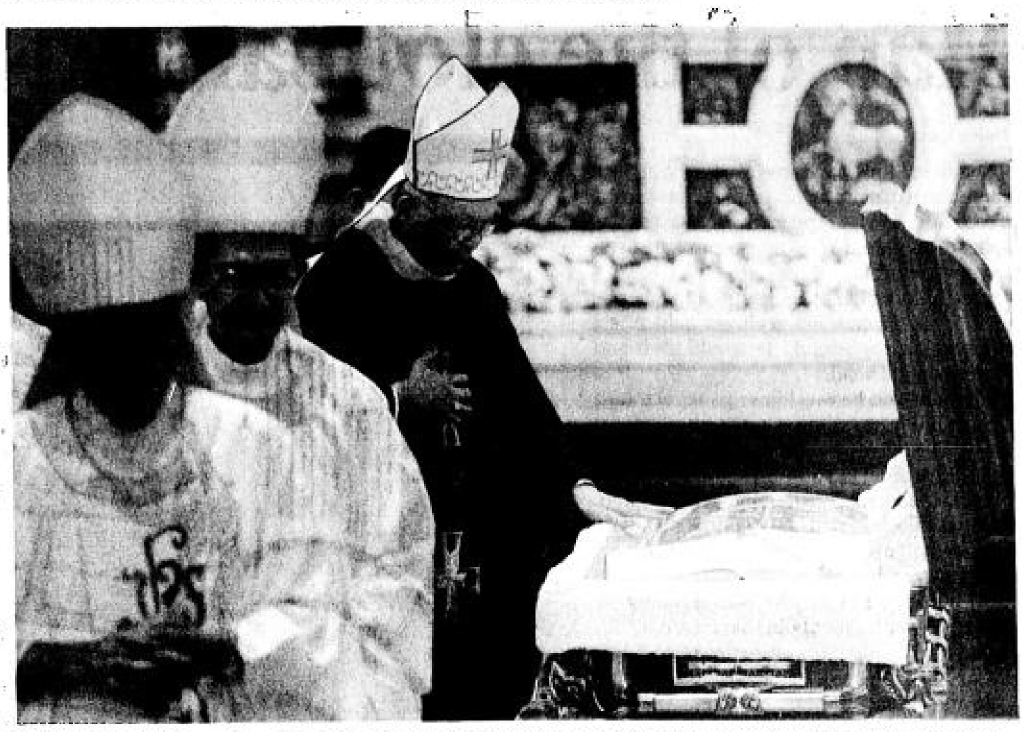
Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, WPD director, has mapped out security measures and strictly ordered his force to ensure the safety of mourners and church personnel.

"Our security plans are all in place to maintain solemnity until the burial day of the late Cardinal Sin," Bulaong said in a statement.

He added: "We are expecting millions of mourners to gather at the cathedral, and the WPD is ready to safeguard the premises."

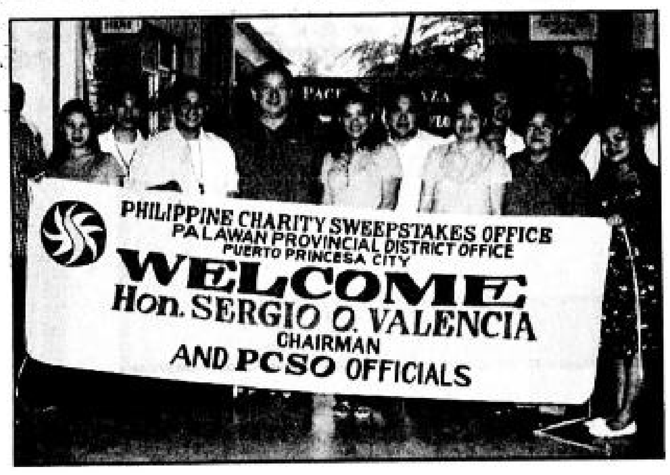
Bulaong also said the district had a sufficient number of police officers to handle the situation.

"Our men and women in uniform are well instructed to be extra vigilant and always ready to assist the general public," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Margaux C. Ortiz, AP, AFP and Reuters*

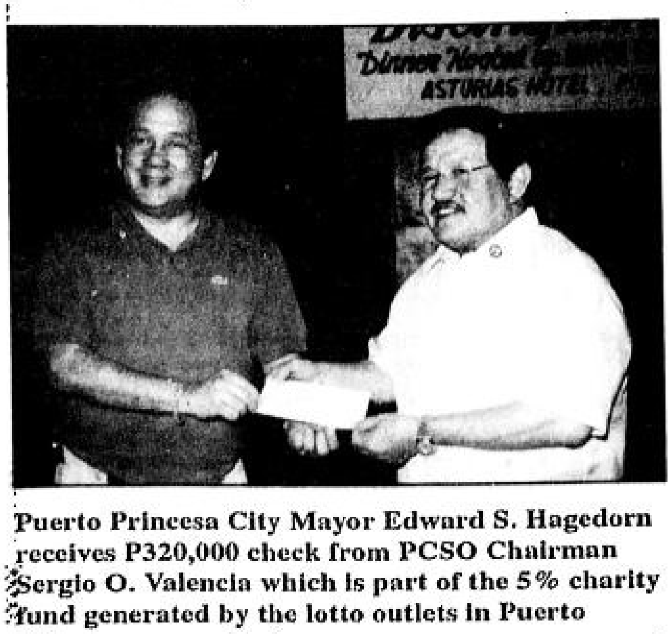


MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, together with other bishops, pays his last respects to Cardinal Sin, his predecessor, at the Manila Cathedral.

REM ZAMORA



PCSO Chairman Sergio O. Valencia holds dialogue with lotto operators and sweepstakes dealer's in Puerto Prinsesa to seek sugestions in improving operations and sales in the city.



Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn receives P320,000 check from PCSO Chairman Sergio O. Valencia which is part of the 5% charity fund generated by the lotto outlets in Puerto Princesa.

PCSO CHAIRMAN VISITS PALAWAN

More than 1,000 residents from three depressed barangays of Puerto Princesa City availed over the weekend of free medical and dental assistance initiated by Governor Joel Reyes of Palawan, LAKBAYAN, the AFP Western Command, and in cooperation with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), led by Chairman Sergio O. Valencia, in line with President Arroyo's efforts to extend basic health services to the far-flung areas of the country.

Also, Valencia turned over a check amounting to P1 million to officials of the Ospital ng Palawan led by Dr. Alma Rivera. The endowment fund of the PCSO is to provide free medical assistance to the poor residents of Palawan Province.

During the three-day visit of PCSO officials in Puerto Princesa City, Valencia also met Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn and handed to him another check of P320,000 which was part of the five percent of the charity fund coming from the gross sales of lotto outlets in Puerto Princesa City.

Under the law, the host local unit government (LGU) receives twice a year five percent of the charity fund from the lotto earnings in the area.

Valencia was accompanied by Conrado Zabella, PCSO assistant general manager for Lotto; Israel Estrella, assistant general manager for corporate planning; Remeliza Gabuyo, department manager-Southern Tagalog and Bicol Region; and Don de Leon, chief of staff of Chairman Valencia.

"This will show that if the local government will host lotto in your town, they can make money to fund the delivery of services to their constituents," Valencia pointed out.

The P 1 million endowment fund will benefit the poor residents of Puerto Princes City as well as other areas of Palawan province who wanted to avail of medical assistance from the Ospital ng Palawan, he said. The Manila-based PCSO team proceeded to Puerto Princesa despite the threat of Malaria disease in the province.

"This will show that the Arroyo Government is working despite the controversies being hurled against it by some quarters," he added.

Residents of three barangays of Puerto Princesa City – Tanglao, Milagrosa and Maningning – were provided free medical and dental assistance for other common diseases by volunteer doctors and nurses.

Valencia also held a dialogue with local dealers of Lotto operators and Sweepstakes agents to formulate strategies on how to increase their revenues to allow the PCSO authorities beef up their charity fund for the poor people.

MEDICAL MISSION AT PUERTO PRINCESA
Brgy. Tanglao Milagrosa, and Maningning

HON. SERGIO O. VALENCIA
CHAIRMAN, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

He fought, and won ...

From page A1

odds.

Catholics believe that the appointment of bishops ultimately comes from the Holy Spirit. This spiritual reading masks the fact that Cardinal Sin had history on his side.

Appointed to the See of Manila in 1974 when he was only 45, Sin went on to reign as primate of the Philippine Catholic Church for 29 years until 2003, when he retired at 75, as canonically mandated.

Sin was the second longest reigning Manila archbishop, after the Irish Archbishop Michael J. O'Doherty, who held the post throughout most of the American occupation and beyond, from 1916 to 1949.

If Sin didn't know what to do with the See of Manila, he had plenty of time to shape up and find out. But if he was unsteady when he first strode on the Manila stage in 1974, he didn't show it.

He apparently learned from the lesson of the first ever Filipino archbishop, Monsignor Gabriel M. Reyes.

Another Ilonggo

Like Sin, Reyes was an Ilonggo and a non-Manilan. In fact, they both studied for the priesthood at the St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary of Jaro, Iloilo.

After a long stint as Cebu archbishop, Reyes became head of the Manila See in 1949 at the end of the long Doherty years. When he came to the capital, he was ignorant of the archdiocese and Manila society.

His task was immense: To rebuild the Manila Church whose finances and assets had been run to the ground as a result of the destructive war. Plagued by frail health, he died in 1952.

It came to Reyes's successor, Rufino Cardinal Santos, to rebuild the Manila Church. The feat achieved symbolic realization with the reconstruction of the Manila Cathedral, the seat of the See of Manila, in 1960.

A former assistant bishop of Manila, Santos put to good use his expert knowledge of the diocese.

When he died in 1973, the diocese owned three successful banks and was one of the world's richest, even richer than the churches in the Old World.

Santos was archbishop of Manila for 20 years.

Sin, robust and sprightly in 1974, built on Santos's legacy and avoided the pitfalls of Reyes by recruiting Manila insiders to his bishopric. He banked on his brother, Dr. Ramon Sin, a member of the medical faculty of the University of Santo Tomas, to recruit counselors. One of them was anti-Marcos journalist Felix Bautista, who became Sin's political adviser and speechwriter.

Sin also relied on theologians of the University of Santo Tomas and Ateneo to frame his statements according to theological orthodoxy.

Sin was tested early on. In 1976, martial law troops raided the Sacred Heart novitiate of the Jesuits in Novaliches ostensibly in pursuit of a communist leader.

The brazenness of the raid shocked Sin, who rose to the challenge by issuing an extraordinary pastoral letter condemning martial law and ordering the ringing of church bells to protest the raid.

Like John Paul

The action was vintage Sin, dramatic and determined.

Like Pope John Paul II, Sin had wanted to be an actor and in fact directed and played roles in several plays in the seminary. Both the cardinal and the Pope had a flair for drama and an uncanny instinct at using the resources of the media to get their messages across.

Both had the world as their stage.

Sin explained his sallies at the state: "The separation between the Church and the State is a reality that I accept," he said. "But separation... should not necessarily mean isolation."

Pastorally, Sin allied himself with the poor and the voiceless. His bishopric was unique in having set up low-cost housing projects and services for the poor. His personal photographer, Noli Yamsuan, has a trove of photographs of the Cardinal visiting the poor of Pandacan, Paco and other depressed communities.

At the frontlines

His was a vision of the Church at the forefront. This was shown in 1986, when he called on the people to take to the streets and protect the mutineers against the Marcos military.

This vision was reaffirmed when he opposed constitutional change in 1997 and helped lead a popular revolution to unseat Joseph Estrada in 2001.

WHEN CARDINAL Sin spoke, presidents listened, as did Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, shown here for the 13th anniversary of Edsa in 1999. PDI PHOTO

The 1986 uprising set off a wave of pro-democracy movements in the world. But even before that, Sin had already built an international reputation as the nemesis of Ferdinand Marcos.

It was a reputation polished to a fine state by Sin's humor and wit.

When Marcos' justice minister, Vicente Abad Santos, chided "amateurs of political science," apparently alluding to Sin, the cardinal told a Rotary Club: "Perhaps what our country needs at this point are amateurs, amateurs who have not been made blasé, by the realities of politics."

His international reputation also allowed him to conduct diplomatic missions in communist states with no official relations with the Vatican. In 1984, Sin visited China, and in 1987, the Soviet Union.

All a matter of grace

In both instances, he was shrewd enough to wangle an invitation and make contacts with the underground churches and give them the Vatican's blessings.

Through all of these domestic and international sorties, Sin relied on an uncomplicated, even naif spirituality, as illustrated by his call on the Pink Sisters and other contemplative nuns at the height of the 1986 Edsa revolution to storm heaven with prayers.

It seems propitious that Sin should die shortly after the death of John Paul II. They were good friends and both were international players who defined their milieu and times. Both were blessed with longevity (John Paul's was the third longest papacy).

Sin might have none of John Paul's theological sophistication but he shared with him an uncanny political instinct and an ability to win geopolitical slugfests.

Both attributed their achievements to the Holy Spirit.

"In the end," Sin said, "it is all grace."

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'He loved us with all his heart'

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trusted to us. This is the mission, which we must take up ourselves," Vidal added.

"It is very sad. We have lost [someone] who was really a model, especially [in] being the voice of the Church in social issues that need to be addressed," said Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra.

Former President Fidel Ramos described Sin as a fine example of a Filipino and a servant of God.

"In this sad moment, may we all receive consolation from the thought that he did not only lead a full and meaningful life but also did more than a substantial share in faithful service to God, country and people," Ramos said in a letter to Sin's family and to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"To his everlasting credit, Cardinal Sin eminently represented that rare breed of Filipino who performed as he prayed and prayed as he performed, with total dedication, resolve and patriotism," Ramos said.

According to Ramos, the nation's sorrow will be assuaged by the thought that Sin's soul now rests with the Creator.

Lasting legacies

Vice President Noli de Castro said both Sin and the late Pope John Paul were two powerful spiritual voices who dramatically changed the Philippines' social and political landscape.

He said Sin left lasting legacies for the coming generations, and noted that the cardinal's views and insights had always been sought by leaders, particularly in the dark hours of the nation's history.

"He was the guiding light that illumined the Filipino spirit," De Castro said, adding that Filipinos were lucky to have Sin as their religious leader for 30 years.

The US Embassy said it was "saddened" to learn of Sin's death.

"We recognize his many contributions to the political, spiritual and moral life of the Philippines, and we extend our condolences to his family and to the Catholic faithful," the embassy said in a brief statement posted on its website yesterday afternoon.

Symbol of the Church

Senators from either side of the political spectrum were one in praising the late cardinal and in joining the nation in grief.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. paid tribute to Sin not just for being a beloved leader of the Church but also for helping shape Philippine politics.

"Cardinal Sin was revered by the faithful and has been a symbol of the Catholic Church for decades," Drilon said, adding:

"He represented what was moral, good and just. He made the Philippines proud as the only predominantly Catholic country in Asia. He will be remembered for his vocal stances on issues affecting the country and his influence on our country's leaders. A grateful nation will definitely miss him."

"In Cardinal Sin's demise, the nation lost a spiritual leader who helped shape the nation's political landscape indelibly. The people have one more implacable intercessor in heaven," Pimentel said.

JAIME Cardinal Sin and Mother Teresa share happy moments when the latter visited Tondo in the 1990s.

PDI PHOTO

WITH HIS friend, the late Pope John Paul II in this undated contributed photo.

From the United States, Sen. Manuel Villar, president of the Nacionalista Party, sent a statement saying that Sin was "a cleric who managed to strike a good balance between serving God and his countrymen."

"He was an icon not only in the clergy but also in the political front. His advice and wisdom were sought by the nation's leaders," Villar said.

Forgiving heart

"His unwavering faith in the Lord and his forgiving heart empowered Cardinal Sin to guide us through the tumultuous moments in our history with kindness, wisdom and love," said Sen. Ralph Recto.

Sen. Ramon Revilla hailed Sin as "a force who unified the people during those times when [their] resolve and hope were fading."

"This is also a trying time for the country, which is facing too many a crises, with the loss of a revered icon of peace, patriot of the people and an outspoken leader who inspired and rallied the masses to seek truth and justice through peaceful means," Revilla said, adding that as a sign of respect, all leaders should pray for his soul and take a break from "political and partisan issues."

"The nation has lost a spiritual leader who figured prominently in the evolution of political maturity among our people," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

He expressed hope that Sin's legacy would bear fruit in the strengthening of the country's institutions and processes.

Sen. Richard Gordon noted the role that Sin had played in bringing back democracy in the Philippines.

"Cardinal Sin's influence has transcended the Catholic institution. He continues to be a moving force helping provide balance and harmony in our country. He has given comfort and guidance to our leaders and people during trying times," Gordon said.

End of an era

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said that Sin was a "pillar of democracy" and that his passing "signal[ed] the end of an era."

"We've learned a lot of lessons from [him], and his inspiration and wisdom should be one of the guiding lights in this present crisis that we face," she said.

"Cardinal Sin has left a big void in our national life, specifically in the prolife and profamily movement. The faithful will also remember him for his uncompromising concern for human life," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said.

"I am sure that, on several occasions when he had to walk the fine line between religion and politics, Cardinal Sin agonized as he prayed for divine guidance. I hope we can do justice to his life and work by continuing to uphold the values he so deeply cherished and the further cultivation of our culture of life," said Atienza, who ordered that flags in all city government facilities be flown at half-staff until Sin's interment.

In Hong Kong, the chaplain of the Chinese territory's 150,000-strong community of Filipino overseas workers expressed sadness over Sin's death.

"I am sure that I speak for the community when I say Filipinos in Hong Kong will very much miss Cardinal Sin," Fr. Emilio Lim told AFP.

"Personally I am very saddened and shocked by the news," he added. "Cardinal Sin has been a strong Church leader for many years." *Reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Nikko Dizon and Tina G. Santos in Manila; Joey A. Gabieta, Carla P. Gomez, Alex V. Pal and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; AFP*

FACT BOX

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Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in January 1977. He was reelected to the same post in July 1979.

- Sounded the clarion call on Feb. 22, 1986 for people to come to Edsa to defend the military faction led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Vice Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos, which had broken away from Ferdinand Marcos.
- Spearheaded with Cory Aquino on Sept. 21, 1997 a huge rally at the Rizal Park in Manila that opposed the lifting of the constitutionally imposed term limits of elected officials led by then President Fidel Ramos.
- Teamed up once again with Cory Aquino on Aug. 20, 1999 to lead a massive rally on Ayala Avenue in Makati against moves by then President Joseph Estrada to amend the Constitution.
- Rallied thousands to Edsa on Jan. 16, 2001 to force Estrada, who was accused of massive corruption, out of office.
- Apart from orchestrating the people power uprisings, Sin was a staunch opponent of artificial birth control. In August 1994, he mobilized hundreds of thousands of people in a rally denouncing a state policy encouraging use of condoms and pills to curb rapid population growth.
- Among his published works are "The Revolution of Love" (1972), "The Church Above Political Systems" (1973), "A Song of Salvation" (1974), "Unity in Diversity" (1974), "The Future of Catholicism in Asia" (1978), "Christian Basis of Human Rights" (1978), "Separation, Not Isolation" (1978), and "Slaughter of Innocents" (1979).
- His health had suffered in recent years because of impaired kidneys which required him to undergo dialysis.

Rumors of his imminent death had swept the country several times. *With a report from Reuters*

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Famous quotes from the irrepressible Cardinal Sin

Marcos administration

"THAT'S because I am crucified between two thieves."—Late 1970s, replying to Ferdinand Marcos' question on why there was a "sepulchral" 30-minute silence when Sin joined Marcos and his wife Imelda in their limousine.

* * *

"There was election in Jerusalem between Jesus and Barabbas. And Barabbas won," after Marcos had gloated during his inauguration that the "people still love me."—1981.

* * *

"Our two good friends (Ramos and former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile) have shown their idealism. I would be very happy if you would help them. I wish that bloodshed will be avoided. Pray to Our Lady that we will be able to solve our problems peacefully. I am sorry to disturb you at this late hour, but it is precisely at a time like this that we most need your support for our two good friends."—Feb. 22, 1986, asking for the people's help through Radio Veritas, after Ramos and Enrile had asked for his assistance.

Aquino administration

"Separation of the Church and State is like a railroad track. It cannot be close to one another, neither can it be distant, because there will be derailment. We (Church) should cooperate with the government and the government should cooperate with us because we're serving the same people."—February 1992, on the separation of Church and State, which he was often accused of ignoring.

* * *

"She does not follow good advice."—Feb. 12, 1992, referring to then President Corazon Aquino who endorsed Fidel Ramos for the upcoming presidential election.

* * *

"We still have a long way to go before our electorate shall have reached maturity that is required for a properly functioning democracy."—May 1992, saying that because of poverty, many voters are still swayed by bribes.

Ramos administration

"We believe the (government's family planning) program dehumanizes man . . . Let's leave the bedroom to the couples. I don't think the government should be there."—November 1992, said in a homily shortly after President Ramos had endorsed artificial methods of family planning.

* * *

"They impugn our very humanity. They mock our civil society ... Either the property system must be compelled to make the land available, or the system must be overturned."—Dec. 5, 1992, lashing out at the Ramos administration for the 'unjust demolition' of squatter shanties and for failing to house the poor.

* * *

"If he does not listen, even God cannot force you to go to Heaven if you want to go to Hell."—Dec. 4, 1994, when asked what would happen if Ramos did not follow Church advice.

* * *

"We are brothers and sisters; not enemies. It is not the will of God that countrymen go to war against one another."—May 11, 2000, upon calling for a 50-day prayer and fasting crusade as an appeal for peace in Mindanao.

Estrada administration

"May we all strike our breasts and bow our heads in shame because we have brought all this upon ourselves. We have no one to blame but ourselves for being complacent, easy-going and uncaring."—October 2000, chiding the Filipino people in a homily for their apathy amid Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's accusation that President Joseph Estrada had received jueteng payoffs.

* * *

"We pray to the Lord to enlighten our President and to make him a real patriot and nationalist. May God show him the heroic value of relinquishing his post for the sake of our people."—October 2000, calling for Estrada's resignation.

* * *

"If Satan appears to me and gives me money, I will accept the money and spend it all for the poor. It is not the practice of the Church to ask donors where their donations come from. Our duty is to make sure all donations go to the poor. The devil remains . . . my enemy but I will use his resources to feed the poor."—Oct. 25, 2000, defending the Catholic Church's acceptance of a total of P181 million in donations from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. since 1998.

Arroyo administration

"I consider everything as God's handiwork . . . I am just an instrument. I am just like the donkey the Lord rode on. I cannot boast of anything. Everything is grace!"—August 2003, when asked by the INQUIRER what his greatest handiwork as a bishop is.

* * *

"I am retiring but I will not stop serving. You cannot stop me from loving and serving you . . . I will be here. I will stay here. Do not be afraid."—November 2003, retirement speech.

CARDINAL SIN on his 75th birthday in August 2003. PDI PHOTO

* * *

"Let us move the Edsa spirit from street rallies to the poor communities. Let us translate people power to common action for the poor."—Feb. 25, 2004, in a homily celebrating the 18th anniversary of the Edsa Revolution.

* * *

"If only for these jubilees, I am a bejeweled man. I am rich."—April 2004, referring to his diamond year when he turned 75 and his golden year as a priest, in a piece titled "I am Rich."

* * *

"It is the most important chapter of my life. I admit finding secret joy and pride in being called the Cardinal of the Edsa Revolution. I do not claim that as a right. It is a grace that I do not deserve at all. It is a blessing to have been the Archbishop of Manila at that moment in history."—April 2004, on his role at the Edsa Revolution. *PDI Research*

Sin's death . . .

From page A1

he was praying for his soul.

The Pope recalled "with gratitude Cardinal Sin's unfailing commitment to the spread of the Gospel and to the promotion of the dignity, common good and national unity of the Philippine people," he said in the letter written in English.

"I join with you in praying that God, our merciful Father, will grant him the reward of his labors and welcome his noble soul into the joy and peace of his eternal kingdom."

Sin and Benedict knew each other well since being named cardinals by Pope John VI in 1976 and 1977, respectively. *AP/AFP*

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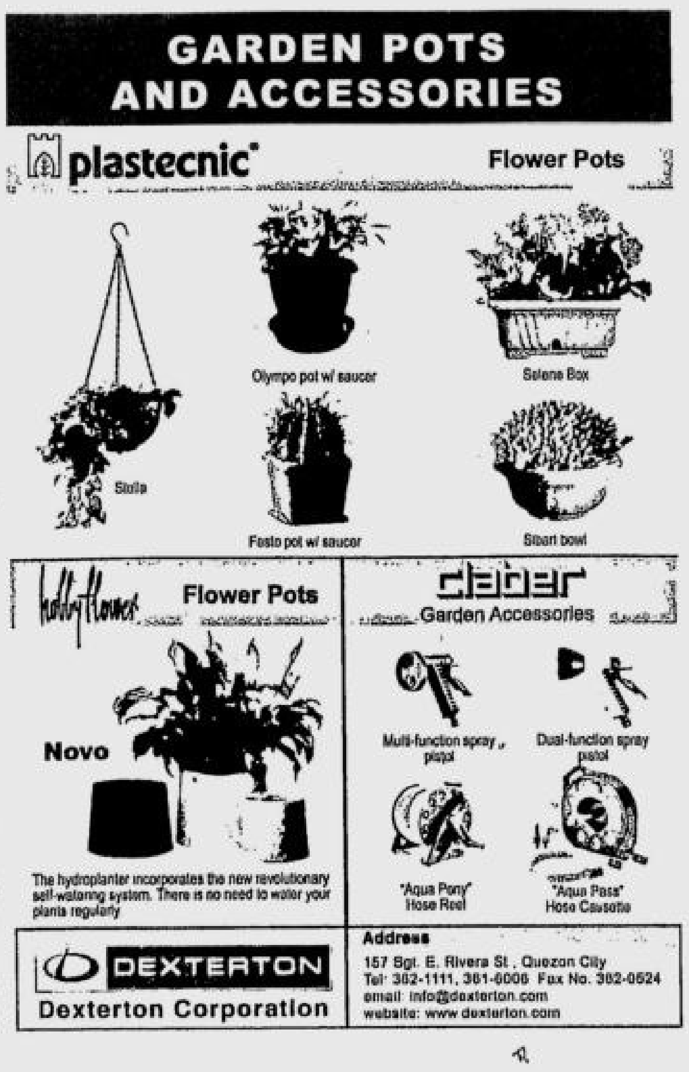
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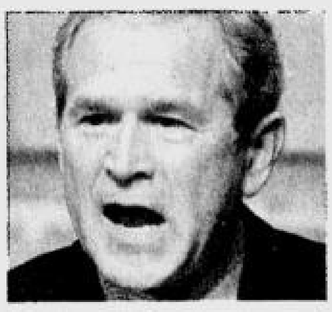
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush admits Iraq war tough going

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush acknowledged on Monday the Iraq war was "tough" going but refused to back down from assertions that progress was being made despite Republican complaints about the administration's rosy optimism.



BUSH

Bush's approval ratings have fallen to the lowest levels of his presidency in part because of growing pessimism about Iraq.

Some prominent Republicans have openly questioned whether the administration's upbeat statements match events on the ground.

Asked if he agreed with Vice President Dick Cheney's assertion that the insurgency was in its "last throes," Bush replied that he understood "how dangerous it is there," adding: "I think about Iraq every day, every single day.

"And the report from the field is that while it's tough, more and more Iraqis are becoming battle-hardened and trained to defend themselves. And that's exactly the strategy that's going to work. And we will, we will complete this mission," Bush told a joint news conference with European Union leaders.

Lawmakers have also questioned administration assertions about the number of Iraqi troops that have been trained. Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican, predicted on Sunday that it will be "at least" two years before US troops can pull out.

"Too often we've been told and the American people have been told that we're at a turning point," said McCain, who described Cheney's characterization as inaccurate.

Another top Republican, Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, was quoted by US News and World Report as saying the White House was "disconnected from reality" in its optimism over the war.

"Things aren't getting better; they're getting worse... It's like they're just making it up as they go along. The reality is that we're losing in Iraq," Hagel said.

Bush said he spoke to Army Gen. John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, on Monday, and will talk to Gen. George Casey, top US commander in Iraq, this week to get "an assessment as to how we're proceeding." "We're making progress toward the goal, which is, on the one hand, a political process moving forward in Iraq, and on the other hand, the Iraqis capable of defending themselves," Bush said.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said Bush's views were based on assessments from military commanders on the ground. He defended Cheney's "last throes" comment, saying he was referring to the "great progress made in going after the al-Qaida network in Iraq."

Reuters

Saddam friendly, talks a lot, say US guards

NEW YORK—Saddam Hussein loves Doritos, hates Froot Loops, admires President Ronald Reagan, thinks Bill Clinton was "OK" and considers both Presidents George Bush "no good." He talks a lot, worries about germs and insists he is still president of Iraq.

SADDAM

Those and other details of the deposed Iraqi leader's life in US military custody appear in the July issue of GQ magazine, based on interviews with five Pennsylvania National Guardsmen who went to Iraq in 2003 and were assigned to Saddam's guard detail for nearly 10 months.

However, the five soldiers told GQ of their personal interactions with Saddam, saying he spoke with them in rough English, was interested in their lives and even invited them back to Iraq when he returns to power.

"He'd always tell us he was still the president. That's what he thinks, 100 percent," said Spc. Jesse Dawson, 25.

Their description of the man who once lived in palaces and now occupies a cell with no personal privacy matched recently published photos, apparently smuggled out of prison, showing Saddam in his underwear and a long robe.

The story said that once, when Saddam fell during his twice-a-week shower, "panic ensued. No one wanted him to be hurt while being guarded by Americans." One GI had to help Saddam back to his cell, while another carried his underwear.

Saddam was friendly toward his young guards and sometimes offered fatherly advice. When O'Shea told him he was not married, Saddam "started telling me what to do," recalled the soldier. "He was like, 'You gotta find a good woman. Not too smart, not too dumb. Not too old, not too young. One that can cook and clean.'"

Then he smiled, made what O'Shea interpreted as a "spanking" gesture.

AP

Taiwan-Japan water row erupts anew

ABOARD Fengyang Frigate, Taiwan—Taiwan raised the pressure in a territorial dispute with Japan on Tuesday by sending a navy frigate with top politicians on board to protect its fishermen in disputed waters.

Defense Minister Li Jye led a group of 15 politicians and more than 100 journalists on the controversial trip to the waters about 120 km northeast of Taiwan.

The area is some 40 nautical miles off the disputed Diaoyu islands in the East China Sea.

"Diaoyu island is ours!" parliament speaker Wang Jin-pyng and other legislators chanted, waving Taiwanese flags after a voyage which lasted almost four hours.

"Safeguard national sovereignty! Long live the Republic of China (Taiwan's official title)!" they added.

Taiwan, Japan and China all claim a chain of islets, known as Senkaku in Japanese and as Diaoyu in Chinese, 150 km north of Japan's Yonaguni island.

The mission has been criticized by some in Taiwan as a publicity stunt.

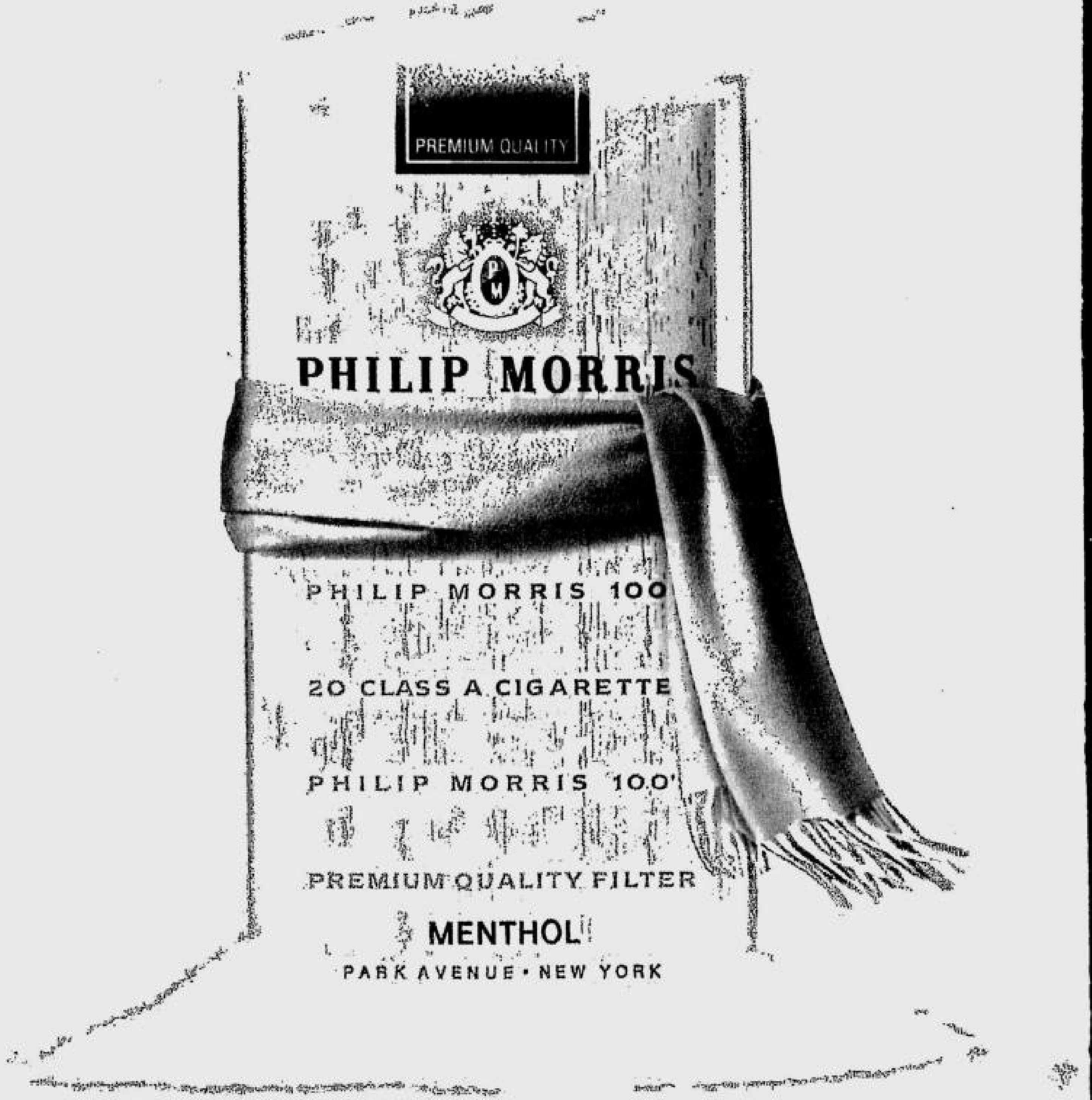
"There is no denying this is a show," said parliamentarian Lee Wen-chung of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party.

But Wang, speaking aboard the missile-equipped Knox-class frigate "Fengyang," said the aim was to show Taiwan's determination to protect its fishermen.

"If the fishermen had not had such expectations (of the military stepping up protection), then we would not have done this," said Wang of the leading opposition Kuomintang party.

The Fengyang was flanked by two patrol boats also equipped with missiles and three other patrol boats from the coast guard.

AFP



Government Warnin
is dangerous

North, South Korea resume talks

SEOUL—A high-level delegation from communist North Korea arrived Tuesday for talks with South Korea amid hopes for progress in bilateral ties and the stalemate over the North's nuclear weapons ambitions.

Four days after North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il said six-party talks on the nuclear standoff could resume as early as next month, a North Korean plane carrying a five-member team led by Kwon Ho-Ung, a senior cabinet councilor, landed at Incheon Airport, west of Seoul.

Kwon, the most senior North Korean delegate to visit South Korea in more than a year, is to hold talks with Unification Minister Chung Dong-Young, who heads the South Korean team.

"Please watch it with expectation," a smiling Kwon said when asked about prospects for the talks.

The four-day ministerial meeting will focus on getting North Korea back to the nuclear talks and boosting inter-Korean exchanges, said the unification ministry in Seoul.

In a rare meeting with Chung in Pyongyang Friday, North Korean leader Kim said his country would return to the six-way talks as early as July if Washington "recognizes and respects" his country.

Since last June North Korea has boycotted the dialogue that also includes the United States, South Korea, Russia, Japan and China. On Feb. 10 it declared that it possesses nuclear weapons.

"Both South and North Korea have higher expectations for the talks than ever," said Jun Byung-Hun, spokesperson for South Korea's ruling Uri Party.

During the talks, the two Koreas are expected to try to set schedules for what Chung and Kim agreed in Pyongyang on June 17, officials said.

Kim and Chung agreed to arrange more reunions of separated families in August and resume general-level military talks. They also agreed to push for inter-Korean fisheries talks and regular direct air routes.

But Seoul officials were also hoping to receive firmer signals that North Korea will return to the disarmament talks, which aim to persuade the Stalinist state to drop its nuclear arms program in exchange for economic benefits and security guarantees.

The annual US-EU summit on Monday issued a joint statement urging North Korea to end its nuclear weapons drive and Japan and South Korea called for a swift resumption of stalled talks.

Washington has responded to Kim's proposal to return to talks in July by asking for a concrete date.

"Until we have a date, unless we have a date, we don't have talks," said assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill, the US top negotiator on the issue, on Monday.

Experts cautioned the North could sidestep the nuclear issue at the cabinet-level talks. In the past it has said the nuclear issue was not a matter for inter-Korean dialogue which should focus on economic exchanges.

Also on the agenda was a request for Japan to repatriate to North Korea an 18th-century stone monument which it seized in 1905.

The talks will also likely address the impoverished North's request last week for an additional 150,000 tons of fertilizer aid from the South. Seoul donated 200,000 tons of fertilizer last month.

The two sides will also discuss ways to encourage rapprochement projects including the development of a joint industrial site in the North and the re-linking of cross-border railways.

The two Koreas have remained technically at war since the 1950-1953 Korean conflict ended in an armistice, not a permanent peace treaty.

Icy relations have been slowly thawing since their leaders held an unprecedented summit in 2000. *AFP*

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Human embryos cloned from immature eggs

COPENHAGEN—Scientists have cloned human embryos for the first time using immature eggs matured in a dish—a technique that may help cloning become a viable option for growing patients' own replacement tissue to treat diseases.

The experiment, outlined Monday at the annual conference of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, brings the Belgians to the forefront of human cloning aimed at producing stem cells that would be a genetic match for injured or sick patients.

The goal of so-called therapeutic cloning of human embryos is not to create babies but to extract stem cells, which are created in the earliest days after conception and give rise to the human body. Scientists hope to use the cells as replacement parts for diseased and injured organs. Cells taken from cloned embryos would be a genetic match and theoretically avoid transplant rejection problems.

Some experts have said cloning may not become a practical approach for creating tailor-made stem cells because it requires huge numbers of eggs. There aren't enough mature eggs left over from infertility treatments to meet that need, which means scores of women would have to be willing to donate them.

Until now, scientists have only used mature eggs to create cloned embryos, but if immature eggs work too, the egg supply problem may be significantly eased, said Josiane Van der Elst, who conducted the research at Ghent University in Belgium.

About 10 percent of eggs retrieved from women during infertility treatment are immature. Scientists have matured eggs in a lab before and have reported pregnancies from such eggs, but that is rare and immature eggs are usually discarded.

"As a concept, the idea is great, but unfortunately I think the real capability is limited," said Dr. Gianpiero Palermo, an embryology expert who was not connected with the research. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

China appoints HK's Tsang

HONG KONG—China on Tuesday appointed veteran civil servant Donald Tsang as Hong Kong's next leader, saying he will promote prosperity and stability in the Asian financial capital. Tsang's appointment to a two-year term as chief executive, replacing Tung Chee-hwa who quit in March citing failing health, was announced in a brief report by the official Xinhua News Agency. In Beijing, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said, "I believe that Mr. Donald Tsang and Hong Kong's government will definitely be able to lead all of Hong Kong's people in overcoming all difficulties. He'll advance Hong Kong's prosperity and stability." The acting chief executive, Finance Minister Henry Tang, told reporters that Tsang's swearing-in ceremony would be on Friday in Beijing. *AP*

Bolton blocked again

WASHINGTON—Senate Democrats on Monday again blocked the nomination of John Bolton as UN ambassador, raising the possibility that President George W. Bush may seek to bypass lawmakers and put him in the job without a confirmation vote. Republican leaders fell six votes short of the 60 votes needed to end a procedural hurdle known as a filibuster and advance the nomination to a confirmation vote. The Senate vote of 54-38 to try and overcome the filibuster came after Bush called for an immediate up-or-down vote on Bolton's nomination. "Well, put him in. If they're interested in reforming the United Nations, they ought to approve John Bolton," Bush said at a news conference with European leaders. *Reuters*

Sharon-Abbas talks

JERUSALEM—Ariel Sharon and Mahmoud Abbas hold talks in Jerusalem on Tuesday, the first meeting between an Israeli prime minister and a Palestinian president in the holy city at the heart of the Middle East conflict. A summit in Jerusalem, sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians and a flashpoint for violence, is symbolic for both Israel and the Palestinians. Both sides claim it for a capital. The talks at Sharon's residence in Jerusalem on smoothing Israel's planned pullout from the Gaza Strip follow prodding by US President George W. Bush's administration four months after the two sides agreed to a now frayed looking ceasefire. *Reuters*

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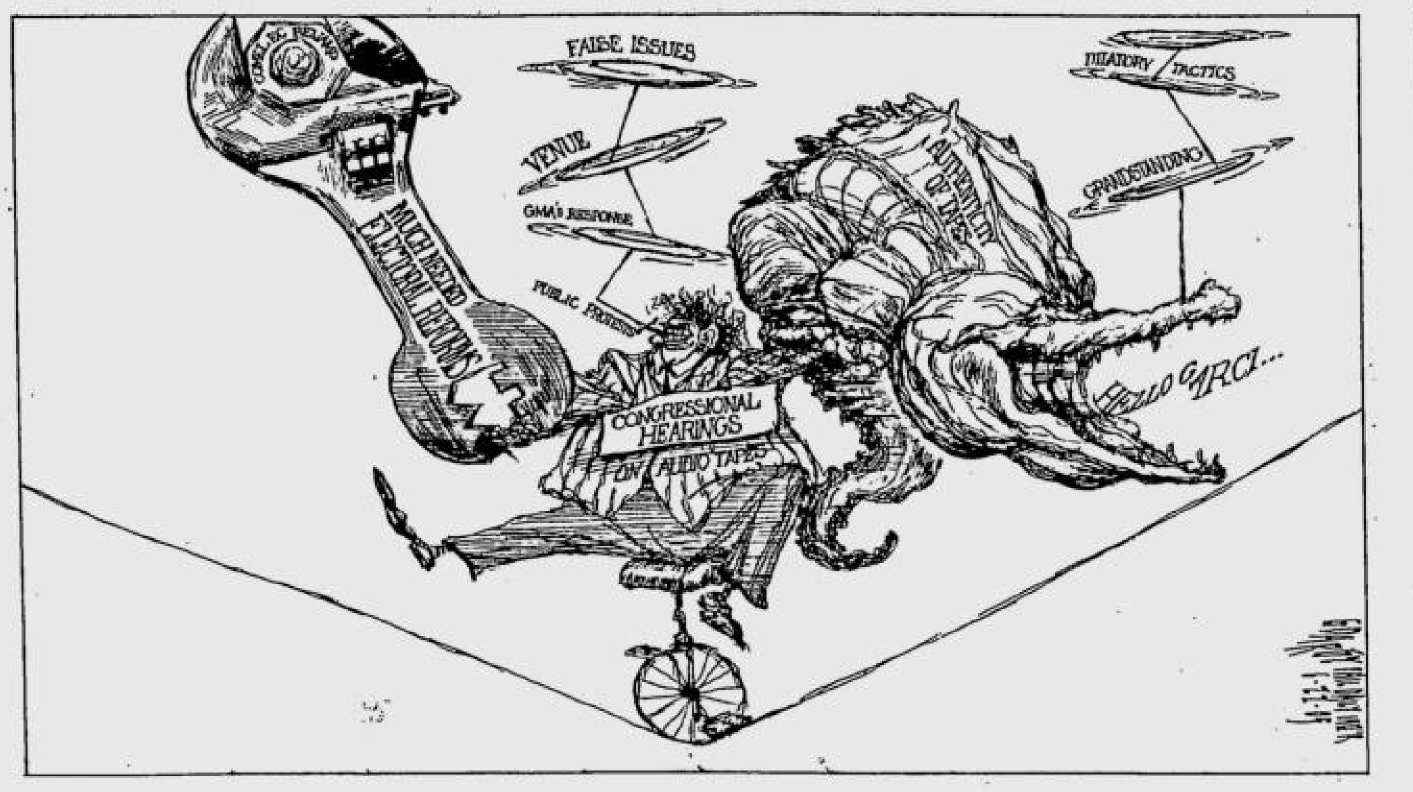

Without Sin

EDITORIAL

IN 1974 Archbishop Jaime Sin replaced Rufino Cardinal Santos, who was reviled by the youth for his conservatism on social issues and his business acumen. Sin was not a firebrand when he donned the cardinal's red cap, but he would change very soon.

One of his first acts as archbishop of Manila was to issue a pastoral letter condemning the summary arrest of Fathers Jose Blanco and Benigno Mayo, both of the Society of Jesus. They had been arrested in a raid on the Sacred Heart Novitiate in Novaliches in 1974. Sin presided over a prayer vigil for the detained priests attended by 5,000 persons, the largest anti-martial law protest at the time.

In 1975, Sin declared his opposition to a decree issued by President Ferdinand Marcos banning all labor strikes. US President Gerald Ford was visiting Manila, so Marcos beat a hasty retreat and confined the prohibition to strategic industries.

But government harassment continued. Church-owned media, which had escaped closure in 1972, were shut down in 1976-77, among them the weekly newspaper and radio station of Bishop Francisco Claver's diocese in Bukidnon, Davao's radio station, and Catholic Church magazines in Manila. The government threatened to tax Church properties and subject them to urban land reform.

Sin's policy of "critical collaboration" during this time began to give away to active resistance, as the religious indignation spread over the continuing arrests and more members of the clergy became radicalized. Sin may have thought to steal the thunder from the radical priests by hurling the bolts himself. Protestant groups began to rally against Marcos in 1978.

By 1979, Sin was firmly on the way to his preeminent role in the overthrow of Marcos. After Ninoy Aquino was murdered, it was Sin who presided over the funeral Mass, and virtually made him a secular martyr of the Church. Ninoy had wanted to reason with Marcos; Marcos, or his minions, replied with bullets. Marcos had to go.

Cardinal Sin proposed, on Sept. 23, 1983, the creation of an eight-member national council composed of four representatives each from within and outside the government. This was the opening salvo of the Church's effort to steer the irresistible forces of change into peaceful and orderly channels.

When Cory Aquino called for participation in the Batasan elections in 1984, even though she had no illusions about the outcome of the polls, Cardinal Sin called for participation, too. And when, finally, the snap elections of 1986 resulted in unprecedented fraud, the Catholic bishops replied with an unprecedented declaration that the Marcos government had lost the moral authority to govern. When Marcos' top henchmen revolted, Cardinal Sin placed them under the protection of the faithful. He would summon the people to the streets twice: in February 1986 and January 2001.

But he could only summon them so often. There were times, such as when he tried to influence the decision of the faithful as to which candidate to support in 1992 and 1998, when he was studiously ignored by his flock. His last years found his political powers waning, his appeals falling on deaf ears; instead of being the vanguard for a moral attitude toward politics, he suffered from the perception that he was increasingly out of touch with regard to population issues and minority rights, even as his skill in politics seemingly instilled in him a zest for politicking, which was unpopular with the faithful. And yet, he reaped the honors of a grateful country: the Philippine Legion of Honor from Cory Aquino; the Order of Sikatuna from Joseph Estrada; the Order of Lakandula from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

His passing comes at a time when his voice had long been stilled, his vitality long vanished. This great figure of the Church departs from the scene at a time when Catholics all over the world are creeping from under the shadow of statesmen-princes of the Church, and embarking on a less grand, but more humble, pilgrimage. Like any father, this spiritual father departs mourned by his people, but leaving them better prepared to embark on their journeys, in their own ways, to seek the charity and justice that should bind all persons of good will.

See Kapihan show and help preserve free speech

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IT is five days to K-Night, or Kapihan Night, when the special musical satirical show to mark the 20th anniversary of Kapihan sa Manila, the original breakfast forum and the mother of all kapihans, will be held at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion on June 27. With all the crises and problems assaulting us daily—what with the tapes and *jueteng* scandals, rising taxes, transportation costs and prices of basic commodities, etc.—we deserve a break. We have to laugh before we lose our sense of humor. Humor is what allows us to hurdle crises. The President, specially, should not lose her sense of humor. She has been invited to be the guest of honor at the affair.

That is why we should all watch the show (it has a very long title so it has been nicknamed with a short "Hello Garci"): to laugh and be entertained. Willie Nepomuceno and his troupe of mimics will prick, with their satirical skits, the inflated balloons of the high and mighty to bring them back to earth.

The Philippines' top singers, among them Pilita Corrales, Nonoy Zuniga, Jaya, Marri Nallos, Juan Rodrigo, (perhaps Regine Velasquez) and others, will serenade the audience with songs that will include a new song that I am sure people will continue to hum even after the show is over.

But there is a more important reason why you should go to the show. Proceeds of the affair will be donated to preserve one of our most important freedoms: the freedom of speech. Here is why:

With an administration like that of President Macapagal-Arroyo, we are inching back to one like Marcos' martial law regime. Freedom of speech is slowly being curtailed. The justice secretary said that just talking about the contents of the wiretapped tapes of the Garci-Glori conversations invites arrest and prosecution. He has threatened newspapers not to publish transcripts of the tapes, which is a violation of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press. And the National Telecommunications Commission has warned broadcast stations against airing the conversations. Groups of people are being prevented by the police to air their grievances publicly in assemblies and demonstrations. Our right of free access to information is slowly being limited.

That is why Samahang Plaridel, the association of respected journalists, is working to have our own version of London's Hyde Park where anyone can talk freely about public affairs without fear of arrest or prosecution. Plaridel is working for national and local legislation to convert a corner of Plaridel Park in Malate (opposite the Manila Zoo), where it had recently erected, in cooperation with the City of Manila, a monument to Marcelo H. del Pilar whose birth anniversary falls in August, into a Freedom Park.

There, on a spot beside Del Pilar's statue, anybody can stand on a soap box and criticize the government and public servants without fear of arrest or prosecution. That will prevent the frequent violent clashes between the police and demonstrators marching here and there to air their grievances. People with grievances can always go to the Freedom Park anytime and let off steam.

Through its anniversary show, Kapihan sa Manila will help make that Freedom Park a reality.

Another beneficiary will be the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) which takes care of abandoned dogs, cats and other animals until they are adopted by responsible families. So by buying tickets to "Hello Garci" (real title: "20 Million Cups of Coffee Served and Still Serving" because Kapihan sa Manila must have served that many cups of coffee during its 20 years of existence), you will be entertained, help preserve freedom of speech and help save animals from suffering.

A few more tickers are available at the Manila Hotel and at Samahang Plaridel's clubhouse and Front Page Piano Bar on T.M. Kalaw Street, Manila.

* * *

Panelists at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila were Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, lawyer Alan Paguia who had released the third of the Garci-Glori tapes, and former Sen. Nikki Coseteng who had hurried home after hearing of the crisis here.

Abalos expressed doubt as to the authenticity of the tapes because during the time Garci and Glori were supposedly talking about the counting in Mindnao, the Comelec had already announced the results. Coseteng said we should "unite" as a nation but not necessarily around a person.

Paguia related how he came into possession of the tapes. He said the tapes were sent to him for "legal advice." After listening to them for more than three hours, he realized that a crime had been committed and that the public should know about it. However, it was too long for public consumption, so he chose the most incriminating parts and annotated them and provided an introduction for easy understanding.

After Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye came out with his two tapes that, Paguia realized later, were altered, he decided to make public the tapes he had.

Some time later, former NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong came out with the much longer and supposedly original tapes where all the other tapes must have come from. He also provided journalists with transcripts from the first three tapes, comparing the same portions of the conversations, to show how words were either erased or added in the Bunye tapes to change the meaning of the sentences in the original.

Will the guilty person or persons please confess and get this chapter over with.

Jokes

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE GENERATIONS that came after Jose Rizal did get something from him. That is the capacity for satire. That was what Rizal excelled at—he was at his best when showing up the foibles of the friars, who, like today's leaders did not share his humor and retaliated murderously—and that is what we excel at. GMA and company may not be laughing now but they did so uproariously when it was Erap at the other end of the firing line, or text jokes. Firing lines and text jokes have been known to produce the same sensation.

Some of the current jokes are hilarious and reveal the Filipino's genius for creativity, something you wish he'd also put to other uses. The ones about Iggy Arroyo practicing GMA's voice and GMA keeping silent about the tape out of fear the public might recognize her voice ("*mabosesan*") are absolutely witty. You want to catch the public pulse, you don't need to go farther than to listen to these jokes. I say this because I've heard GMA's allies on TV repeatedly say that what the public wants today is not to hear GMA confirm or deny it's her on the tape but to know who did the wiretapping. You will not hear a single joke, text or otherwise, about the whistle-blowers' inability to confront their crime, you will hear no end of jokes about GMA's inability to confront the tape.

The jokes, of course, are not without the most serious implications. In this country, the world (of bad leaders) does not end with a bang, it ends with jokes. Or at least it is immediately preceded by them. That was how it was during Marcos' time, that was how it was during Erap's time. In both cases, the jokes grew too plentiful and too inventive for the regime to stamp them out. Some could only have come from a Filipino mind, such as the one about the Japanese diplomat who praised Marcos by telling the Filipino people: "Why are you angry with your President? Your President robs you, your President robs you very much."

In Erap's case though, I always thought the reality was funnier than the "Eraptions." Can anything be more hilarious than Erap joining the countdown on New Year's Eve 2000 on national TV by counting, "10, 11, 12 ..." rather than "10, 9, 8..."? What a way for this country to start the third millennium after Christ.

My favorite among the current "Glorifications" is a tossup between two. One goes: Woman: "All the Arroyos are thieves." Man: "You're being unfair." Woman: "Why, are you an Arroyo?" Man: "No, I'm a thief." It's funnier in the original Tagalog. What can one say? The pickpockets of Quiapo steal only wallets. The pickpockets of Malacañang steal even votes.

The other is: "Flash: GMA's popularity has surged to an all-time high. Her CD has just gone platinum."

While at that, I do hear the pirated version of The Conversation has been doing brisk business in the various pirates' lairs of this country. Never have pirates done a more patriotic duty since Francis Drake scuttled Spanish galleons for loot for God and country.

Raul Gonzalez has become an entire joke unto himself threatening to arrest not just those circulating the tape but listening to it. I saw Serge Osmeña on TV last week openly saying he was personally distributing copies of The Conversation to the public and even held up the CDs to the camera. He dared Gonzalez to arrest him for it. Which puts Gonzalez in a bind: Anyone he does arrest can always demand to know why he hasn't arrested Osmeña.

Psychologists have explained the Filipino predilection for making a joke out of everything, including the grimmest of things, such as 9/11 (gallows humor, some call it) as a coping mechanism. Given the unrelenting and unbearable adversity that comes his way, the Filipino has no choice but to laugh, or else he will kill. I agree with it but submit further that the Filipino's capacity for satire is not just a defensive posture but also an offensive one. I submit it is the most potent weapon of the powerless in this country.

The Spanish and Marcos regimes, of course, were open tyrannies, bereft of freedom of expression. So people like Rizal fought it with satire, which was the only way to get around it. The Erap and GMA regimes were/are veiled tyrannies, where freedom of expression is observed, but nobody, the leaders above all, bothers to listen to the people anyway. In the last two governments, in particular, the leaders developed such thick hides you could call them thieves to their faces and succeed only in insulting thieves.

Ah, but there is something just as effective as insult, if not more so. That is ridicule. Erap and GMA have never been stung by being made to look avaricious, but they have been stung by being made to look asinine.

But as in Erap's time, the truly funnier, or more profound, jokes today are not to be found in text but in life, not in fiction but in fact. I myself find nothing funnier or more profound than Prospero Pichay and company demanding that the rule of law prevail, that we should dwell only on how the tape was obtained and not on what's in it. If I recall right, the rule of law was Erap's theme only last December during FPJ's wake, his claim being that the voters voted overwhelmingly for him, and so he was still the rightful president. If I recall right, the rule of law was Marcos' theme to the end of his days, his claim being that he won the "snap elections," and so he was still the rightful president. (In that respect, GMA has more in common with Marcos than with Erap.) Strange how this country's most brazen lawbreakers are also its fiercest invocators of the rule of law. It's the kind of joke where you could die laughing.

But that is nothing. Can any joke be funnier or more profound than the reality that we have a President we did not vote for?

A calibrated plot to topple GMA

FORCES implacably hostile to President Macapagal-Arroyo are accelerating their timetable to unseat her government by hook or by crook with an intensified campaign of street marches, feeding on public discontent over a new round of oil price increases and business anxieties over the plunge of the peso exchange rate to a five-month low.

As the peso continued to tumble yesterday after breaking away from the P55.7 level, an ad hoc coalition of anti-regime groups announced weekend protest marches, coinciding with the increase in oil price to a record high. Oil price increases have instant flow-on effects on prices of goods and transport fares. They believe that they can stoke unrest with the aid of these adverse developments partly caused by external economic factors and jitters in the business community over political uncertainties.

The militant groups—an improbable combination of elements identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, retired generals seeking to replace the Arroyo government with a transitional revolutionary junta, disgruntled supporters of Ms Arroyo in the campaign to oust Estrada and leftist groups and supporters of defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 election—plan a march on June 25 to demand the resignation of the President for alleged corruption and election cheating.

These groups have found a unifying issue in their expanded demand that the President break her silence over the authenticity of tapes of wiretapped telephone conversations allegedly between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. According to her opponents, these tapes constitute the "smoking gun" proving allegations of "massive" election cheating.

While the authenticity of these takes are being hotly contested, the President has refused to buckle under the demand to say whether it was her voice at the end of the line. She said she would make "appropriate statements on the issue at the appropriate time."

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

Her opponents would not accept her explanation and are bent on bringing the issue to a head in the streets by escalating their demands. They have shut the door to directing the controversy toward constitutional and legal processes.

Clearly anti-regime groups are trying to generate a groundswell of public unrest and to seize every opportunity to fan discontent.

There have been recent attempts to seize power through popular rising that could provoke military intervention that failed. Anti-regime groups tried to use the funeral of Poe late last year, with its crowd-drawing power, to stir another people power movement. They failed. On May Day this year, plotters thought that the occasion offered the golden moment to spark mass action. This did not materialize. On the eve of Independence Day, they organized rallies, capitalizing on the crowd presence, but the turnout at Liwasang Bonifacio was pathetic. The last followed immediately the disclosure of the existence of the original tapes by Samuel Ong, the ex-NBI deputy director, in a press conference that was hoped to spark mass actions that would spill on to Edsa like People Power I and II. The regime opponents believed that the "ripe time" had arrived to launch a people-power driven coup. The plan fizzled out.

At this time, there is serious doubt whether regime opponents are reading the public mood correctly. Despite the low approval and trust rating of the President, it is to be doubted whether her foes can mobilize millions to the streets to topple the President on the basis of questionable tapes and testimonies at congressional hearings by witnesses on the *jueteng* scandal.

This sequence of events shows that there is a calibrated and methodical plot, whose authors have not been identified, to overthrow the government. This plot apparently seeks to press for a change of government through extra-constitutional and extra-legal modes.

Recent history since Edsa I shows that all coup attempts since the Aquino government have failed and have never received wide public support despite then prevailing public discontent. The Aquino government faced worse threats than the Arroyo government. President Aquino withstood armed attacks by military rebels in six coup attempts.

There is no strong reason to believe that the current cabal of coup plotters could do better. What seems clear is that after several weeks of turmoil following the stepped-up attempts by the plotters to unload scandal upon scandal to generate a groundswell of unrest, the people are not in the mood to be used as cannon fodder on behalf of the disgruntled hotheads and rabble-rousers.

The obvious political strategy of this conspiracy is to drive the cases against the President to the streets, where they can be submitted for political judgment to the grand jury of fickle public opinion so as to incite mob action and violence on the basis of dubious evidence.

It is equally clear that the political turbulence generated by this unruly political action has battered the economy, as shown by the volatility of the markets during the past few weeks.

Let this piece not be understood as condoning wrongdoing by the government or as making judgments on the credibility of the tapes and witnesses. My position is that these allegations should be channeled into the constitutional mode of impeachment to determine whether they can stand up to rigorous tests of credibility. Any other mode destroys the constitutional system and invites a regime of the lawlessness, leading to anarchy.

Priest and pastor, shepherd of souls

MY most enduring image of Jaime Cardinal Sin is not one that shows him on the Edsa stage, railing against the abuses of those in power, or any scene in the public arena, where he undoubtedly played a huge part over the last decades.

Instead, when I try to recall him, what I remember is one afternoon, nearly 30 years ago, when he had yet to be named cardinal and was just a few years into his post as archbishop of Manila. With my then boss, the late journalist Felix Bautista, and the rest of the staff of the archdiocese's media office, we were on the driveway of Villa San Miguel and found to our surprise the archbishop seated on a bench in the garden, garbed in an ordinary priest's *soutana*.

That image of the cardinal has remained with me because it spoke so eloquently of what he was in essence, beneath the robes of exalted office and public power. He was a priest, a pastor, a shepherd of souls.

I once interviewed him in the immediate aftermath of the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolt and asked him what he was proudest of in his years as archbishop of Manila. He made no reference to his role in history or political events. Instead, he spoke of how proud he was of his priests, how, as the head of the local church of Manila, he was able to look after the members of the diocesan clergy and bring them together in brotherhood and solidarity.

I checked this claim with other priests and lay observers and they conceded that, however much they disputed the cardinal's other actions and decisions, that he had indeed carried out his pastoral duties well. And I am sure that, as he faced his Maker yesterday, that was how he was being judged. Not by how well or how badly he parlayed his temporal power to effect political and social change in the country. Not by how he influenced, for better or worse, policymaking or public attitudes. But how he responded to God's invitation to a religious vocation, and how he fulfilled that role—the role of priest and pastor, bishop and Prince of the Church.

* * *

BUT having said all that, I don't think we

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

should ignore or downplay the role Cardinal Sin played in the evolution of public and political events in the last two decades.

After all, he did not have to get involved. He was, in fact, courted and schmoozed by the Marcoses after he was named to succeed the late Rufino Cardinal Santos. Archbishop Jaime Sin was a young, relatively unheard-of prelate from the Visayas when he was catapulted into prominence. No one could blame those in power who thought they could easily manipulate and silence him. And indeed at first he set out to disarm, winning over the faithful with his humor, especially the jokes he cracked mainly at his own expense.

It was, if I recall right, a military raid on a Jesuit seminary that opened his eyes to the government's abuse of power and turned the cardinal into a critic of the martial-law regime. And while publicly he maintained a steadfast position of "critical collaboration," under his watch and leadership the Church became one of the few institutions where critics and opponents, human rights victims and even rebels could find shelter from the forces of the state.

Other priests and even bishops may have been more scathing in their criticisms and more progressive in their stances; a few even took the ultimate step of taking up arms against government. But because of his prominence and visibility, the cardinal could command resources and exercise influence substantial enough to counterbalance the tremendous power of the Marcoses.

And all these he indeed chose to wield on the side of righteousness when he issued that historic call for people to come to the aid of the breakaway faction holed up in Camp Aguinaldo. We all know this call—in tandem with the earlier appeal of Butz Aquino—led to our show of "People Power" and the toppling of the dictatorship.

It would be the grossest of ingratitude not to acknowledge the bravery called for when he "gambled" his person and position and possibly the displeasure of Rome in taking so clear a position on a political dispute. But perhaps like the late Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Sin saw the leveraging of the Church's influence in so secular a matter as politics, in Poland as in the Philippines, as a matter of morality and human salvation as much as it was of regime change.

* * *

FINALLY, a note of personal appreciation for the cardinal's friendship and personal kindness, no matter how often I would bait him in this column, or perhaps disappoint him with my views.

Unlike legislators and local officials who would be summoned by their bishops and lectured on the "right" positions to take, especially with regard to reproductive health, I was never summoned by the cardinal and questioned on my advocacies. Instead, in the few times that I would encounter him, he was unfailingly gracious and even looked happy at our meeting.

On the occasion of our silver wedding anniversary in 2003, I asked Bishop Soc Villegas, acknowledged as the cardinal's closest confidante, if it would not be too presumptuous to ask the cardinal to reprise his role as celebrant at our wedding. "Write him a letter," Bishop Soc urged. "It's rare for the celebrant at a wedding to still be around for the couple's silver anniversary."

We did write the letter, but because of poor health, the cardinal offered instead just to bless our family before the Mass. As our family was leaving his office after the blessing, the cardinal called out to me: "By the way Rina, I think you look beautiful in your dress!"

I was flattered and immensely grateful (especially since my family had been teasing me about my gown), and the memory of his thoughtfulness (and fashion sense) is one I will always treasure.

Surveillance

WHILE some overacting government people are fussing over the use and distribution of the now popular "Hello, Garci" ring tone, I wonder if our jails can contain all the people who "illegally" take delight in these private conversations now made public. But one tape I would really want to hear for historical reasons is the Ferdinand Marcos-Dovie Beams tape that comes complete with a squeaking bed, ecstatic moaning and the President crooning an Ilocano tune.

One can only imagine what materials, now obsolete and historical, remain in the files of our intelligence service today. Perhaps there should be a move to declassify these and transfer them to either the National Library or the National Historical Institute where they can be consulted by researchers. Thinking aloud, I wish we had something similar to the US Freedom of Information Act that makes all sensitive or confidential government records, after a given time, open to the public. Unfortunately, in the age of e-mail, texting and the shredder, historians of the future will not have as much documentation as those doing, say, the late 19th century.

Surveillance has always been a shady and specialized arm of government, and if we have these tapes today, there was a counterpart in the last century. In school, I learned that the discovery of the Katipunan came about when someone shared the information with a Spanish friar during confession. Then there were agents who listened to conversations and declarations made by drunks in saloons and the neighborhood *tambayan*. I have seen reports of the infamous Cuerpo de Vigilancia, which are basically raw intelligence reports on suspected enemies of the government. In its most detailed form it shows the movements of target individuals, enabling the historian to reconstruct his or her daily life. These reports show where a person goes on a given day, the places and people he or she visits, etc.

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

One example is Josephine Bracken who boarded a steamer for Hong Kong in 1897. The report states that she was sent off by Rizal's mother and relatives. She was not well before her departure and the Cuerpo de Vigilancia was able to get her medical record, including her temperature daily until the day of her departure.

In the archives of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Madrid, I came across reports of the Spanish consul in Hong Kong in the years 1896-1898 documenting the movements of prominent Filipinos, their parties and how they were plotting the separation of the Philippines from the mother country. Because these are raw intelligence reports, one cannot be sure whether these are reliable, but they do make engaging reading. If Bracken was tailed and watched in Manila, the surveillance continued in Hong Kong where the Spanish consul sent reports to Madrid concerning this "Viuda de Rizal."

Speaking of Rizal, the hero knew he was being watched, so when he returned to Manila from Hong Kong in 1892, he had to tell friends that to spare them from suspicion and surveillance, he would not call on them. He opted to stay in a hotel rather than in the homes of family and friends and this led to "*tampuhan*" because some people insisted on offering their hospitality, regardless of his being a marked man.

When he was exiled in Dapitan, Rizal allowed the politico-military governor to read his mail before they were dropped in the post office. He left these open to save them the trouble of steaming the envelopes to open them without being caught. To skirt the watchful, or should we say, intrusive, eyes of his jailer he would write a letter in different languages. He would begin in Spanish, write a paragraph in Tagalog, then return to Spanish, then shift to either German, French or English, thus confusing the enemy who probably ordered a dictionary from Manila to cope with his polyglot prisoner.

When he first returned to the Philippines in 1887, as the notorious author of "Noli Me Tangere," Rizal was provided with a "bodyguard" whose job was basically to keep an eye on his movements and, in conversation, to see what his political views were like. They became fast friends—Rizal and his *tukayo* Jose Taviel de Andrade. They went to sketching sessions together, and even climbed Makiling racing up with banners, resulting in rumors that Rizal had pitched a German flag on the mountain and claimed the Philippines for the kaiser. Aside from this it was thought that he was infected with Protestant beliefs during his stay in Germany. Thus, he was often referred to as "the German doctor" or "*El doctor aleman*," which was shortened to "Dr. Aleman" and much later corrupted to "Dr. Uliman." What I find hilarious is that some confused (or should I say, over-reading) people have found a non-existent Muslim connection with Rizal, claiming that "Dr. Uliman" was a contraction of Soliman! And I don't think we should even discuss the unfounded rumor that Adolf Hitler was Rizal's son.

When raw intelligence reports are leaked to the public, it does provide some merriment and confusion as we have in the "Hello, Garci" tapes. In Rizal's case, he became a German spy or even a German citizen, thus before he was deported to Dapitan in 1892, the governor had to inquire officially into Rizal's citizenship.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Every father a son

YOU don't have to be too old to recognize the lyrics and start humming away: "It's not time to make a change, just relax, take it easy. You're still young, that's your fault..."

The title of my column probably gave you a hint as to the title of the song. That's Cat Stevens' plaintive "Father and Son," the father advising his son to be patient about the world, and the son responding with frustration: "How can I try to explain, when I do he turns away again."

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Stevens composed that song many years ago, perhaps speaking of his own pent-up feelings. Last Christmas, reborn now as Yusef Islam, he teamed up with pop singer Ronan Keating for a music video revival of the song. The Keating-Islam single topped the hit charts for several weeks, showing the enduring appeal of the song's messages.

Stoic distance

I thought about Cat Stevens' song last weekend, on Father's Day, ironically provoked by the title of an article, "Every mother a daughter." Hey, I thought, every father's a son, too, and that's often a more difficult relationship than that of mothers and daughters.

Why so? Because in many cultures, there's still a sharp division of parenting roles, the mothers expected to be nurturing, flexible and understanding while the father has to be firm, providing the discipline sometimes with an iron hand. Certainly, there are variations across and within cultures but generally, the father is expected to maintain some distance from his children.

Paradoxically, a daughter may have an upper hand here, able to approach her father and bargain. She is actually privileged by gender roles, allowed to be coy as she negotiates to get her way, often successfully. Now, try to imagine a son whining, "Please, Dad *naman*, pretty please?" He could get away with this if he's still a little boy (well, not by saying "pretty please") but as he grows into adolescence, he's expected to be, well, "a man."

The tensions—and the distance—grows. And when the son himself becomes a father, he passes on this stoic tradition.

It's sad that we are captives to these gender roles. "Father and Son" speaks of one sad scenario: "From the moment I could talk I was ordered to listen. Now there's a way and I know that I have to go away. I know I have to go." Even if the sons don't leave, conflicts may remain unresolved, carried through a lifetime in an uneasy relationship with the father.

Oedipus revisited

All that may not be so bad, actually. Even worse are the situations where sons have to compete with their fathers. Freud's famous Oedipus complex talks of a weak or absent father producing a homosexual son. That explanation of homosexuality has been thrown out but the Oedipus theory is still intriguing. I'd even stand the theory on its head and suggest that the problems come when fathers are too strong—in public or private life—exerting great pressure on their sons.

I've read quite a few commentaries in American newspapers suggesting that George W. Bush Jr. is obsessed with trying to prove himself to his father. The senior Bush was president in the 1990s and launched the Desert Storm adventure that ended short of capturing Saddam Hussein; Bush Junior, even before 9/11, was intent on taking up where his father left off. He got his prey, but look at what he got the world into.

Of course, there are many other reasons for Bush's war instincts, but it's intriguing, this idea of leaders going to war to prove themselves to their fathers. Yes, I did think too of presidents who are their father's daughters, such as Indonesia's Megawati Sukarnoputri and our own Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I have no doubt that GMA, too, lives constantly in her father's shadow with her attempts to prove herself a strong president and build a strong republic. She hasn't fared too well, I'm afraid.

Whatever, I think the psychological dynamics between fathers and their offspring offer us still another reason to be extra careful with dynasties. All through history, whether as emperors or business magnates, sons have gone to great lengths to prove themselves to their fathers.

'Haplos'

Certainly, there is nothing wrong with idolizing our fathers and wanting to emulate them. It is when men equate fatherhood with machismo that we get into problems: having as many children as possible to carry the family name, an extravagant lifestyle, including spoiling the kids with the latest gadgets just to prove one can afford it. I'd go as far as suggesting that corruption is driven to a large extent by distorted machismo concepts of fathering.

We owe much to the fathers who dare to defy those norms by leading honest and simple lives, teaching their sons (and daughters) that a simple life can be a good life, too. My father went against both Filipino and Chinese traditions by not giving us birthday parties when we were kids. He was not being a tightwad here; instead, he was teaching us priorities. Parties he felt were needless luxuries, but he and my mother were always ready to splurge when it came to books and travel, stretching the household budget so we could learn more about the world by reading and by seeing places.

There are many ways of breaking the mold, sometimes even for what seems to be the most trivial. Last week, I asked my freshmen students if they thought fathers could give *haplos*, a gentle touch. Most of them shook their heads, some rather vigorously. Asked to explain, one student volunteered, "Only mothers can give the *haplos*."

That answer was revealing, and disturbing. There's more than a gentle touch involved here. *Haplos* has connotations of comfort and succor, of alleviating pain, even of healing illnesses.

Are men, specifically fathers, incapable of giving that *haplos*? I think not. It's our own fathers and their fathers who taught us to economize on the expressions of affection and concern lest it reflect badly on our masculinity. After all, we are taught, too, not to cry even when in the deepest of grief.

I told my students that I'd like to see a new generation of Filipino fathers who can learn to give that *haplos* to their children. I know the barriers remain. In these difficult times, as more and more cases of incestuous sexual abuse surface, fathers may feel constrained about showing their affection toward their daughters. Yet I feel that precisely because of the problem of sexual abuse, a father becomes even more crucial in teaching his children—again both sons and daughters—to tell when a touch is sincere.

We are our fathers' sons (and daughters), each generation carrying on the wisdom of the past, but ready as well to move forward and break new ground for parenting, being firm as fathers have always tried to, but learning as well to be more intimate and nurturing.

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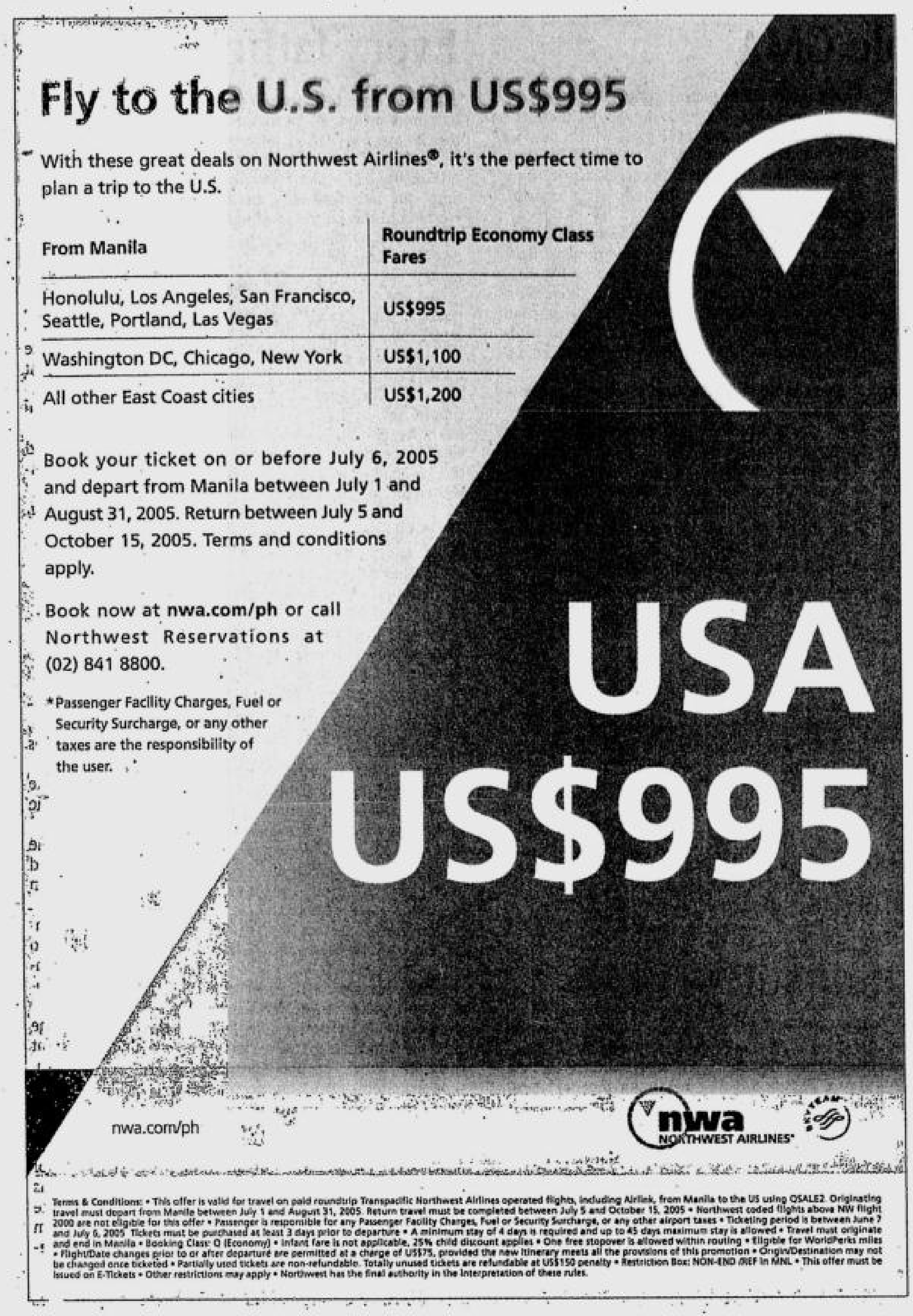
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Too old to be president

BY THE TIME you publish this letter, certain issues raised in the June 11 INQUIRER editorial, "Pimentel ploy," may already be stale. Still, let me put on record that:

1. The editorial writer needs a new crystal ball to read me with a degree of accuracy.

2. Even if I were to take the editorial at face value or as a left-handed compliment, still I must say that the presidency needs a more vigorous, intelligent and dedicated public servant than I can ever be at this point of my life. I am now 71 years of age. My knees are getting weak. My mind will soon succumb, if it is not yet succumbing, to the ravages of Alzheimer's.

3. It was the INQUIRER that did the banner story on my call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down. Not I. So why blame me if the banner story overshadowed Sandra Cam's testimony in the *jueteng* probe that directly implicated the presidential son, Mikey, and the presidential brother-in-law, Iggy, in the illegal numbers game?

4. I called for Ms Arroyo to step down, among other things, because of Cam's testimony. Unfortunately, Noli de Castro, who is a good man, should also step down so that the people may give a new mandate to the leader of the nation pursuant to the Constitution.

5. That is the only way, I believe, that we can move the ship of state forward. Today, the nation's ship floats in a sea of uncertainty. It sorely needs a new captain to save it from either dashing itself against the rocks of rebellion or coup d'etat, or from capsizing in the waves of people power. I do not advocate these methods of changing leaders. I go for the constitutional way, elections. That was what I stood for in the Marcos era; that is what I stand for today in this age of Gloria.

6. Sammy Ong has revealed that Isafp officers gave him the taped conversations of Ms Arroyo and the Comelec operator Virgilio Garcillano. The conversations detail the schemes to cheat FPJ by Ms Arroyo and Garcillano in the last presidential and vice-presidential elections. The tapes are the smoking gun that validates the observations that I made—to the same effect—at the congressional canvassing of the presidential and vice-presidential votes in the said elections.

7. I do not take people for fools. As a politician of long standing, I have learned to respect the views of even the most unlettered among our people. They have a lot to say to us, public servants, which may be useful in the discharge of our duties.

8. I am told that it never pays for a politician to contradict what newspapers say. That may be so because they always have the last say and they also determine if letters contradicting their position will ever see print. By delaying or denying the publication of this letter, the INQUIRER might even wish to damage my credibility as it tried to do during the canvassing of the last presidential votes. But I take the risk if only to ask that the truth—or even simply the truth as I see it—be allowed to see print in the INQUIRER.

—SEN. AQUILINO PIMENTEL JR.

'Too harsh' only in the reporting?

THIS is to correct the inaccurate report titled, "3-rank demotion too harsh, says Oakwood commissioner," by Dona Z. Pazzibugan. (PDI, 5/18/05)

I want to go on record that I did not describe as too harsh the plea bargaining agreement reached between the defense and prosecution in the cases before the General Court Martial against 184 soldiers. Had I said that, as Pazzibugan reported, it would have been similarly reported by Jefferson Antiporda of The Manila Times ("Verdict on mutineers not a guarantee vs coup tries"), Michaela P. del Callar and Mario J. Mallari of The Daily Tribune ("Coup vs Gloria irreversible") and Raffy S. Jimenez of the PNA ("Shut up!").

The Daily Tribune report said I characterized the plea bargain as "the lenient verdict." To my knowledge "too harsh" and "lenient" are polar opposites. Had I said "too harsh," that cute sound bite would not have escaped the reporters of The Manila Times, The Daily Tribune and the PNA. Pazzibugan must have made her own conclusions from the interview I gave to make her story credible.

—CAROLINA G. HERNANDEZ,
presidential adviser
for the Implementation
of the Feliciano Commission
Recommendations,
Office of the President,
Malacañang, Manila

I DID not quote Ms Hernandez as saying the verdict was "too harsh." (Nor did she say it was "the lenient verdict.") But her statements and quotes were duly reported in the story to support the lead paragraph. And it is not unusual for reporters to pick up different news angles from the same interview.

—DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN,
PDI reporter

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Muslims asked to back independence

COTABATO CITY—The Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy (PCID) yesterday urged Muslims to support calls for Mindanao independence, if necessary, as a political alternative amid the wiretapping controversy and other issues hounding the Arroyo administration.

Amina Rasul, PCID chair, said the country's over 10 million Muslims had to take a stand amid the scandal, "lest they (the Manila government) forget to address the Mindanao problem."

Rasul said new calls for independence by local government officials of Davao and Ilocos signaled "desperation on the part of the people."

"[This is also] a proactive initiative in trying to protect their lot," Rasul, a former Ramos youth official, said.

In a statement, the PCID said Muslim organizations and individuals should heed any serious call for an independent Mindanao.

"What has Mindanao been getting from being part of this country, anyway? Poor share of the fruits of national development? Social, economic and political instability?" she asked.

But Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said Mindanao should declare independence only if anarchy had ruled in the capital.

Duterte, President Macapagal-Arroyo's antiterror adviser, said he would take the necessary action once a revolt took place anew in Manila.

"We are not ready to talk about it because the conditions are not yet ripe," he said.

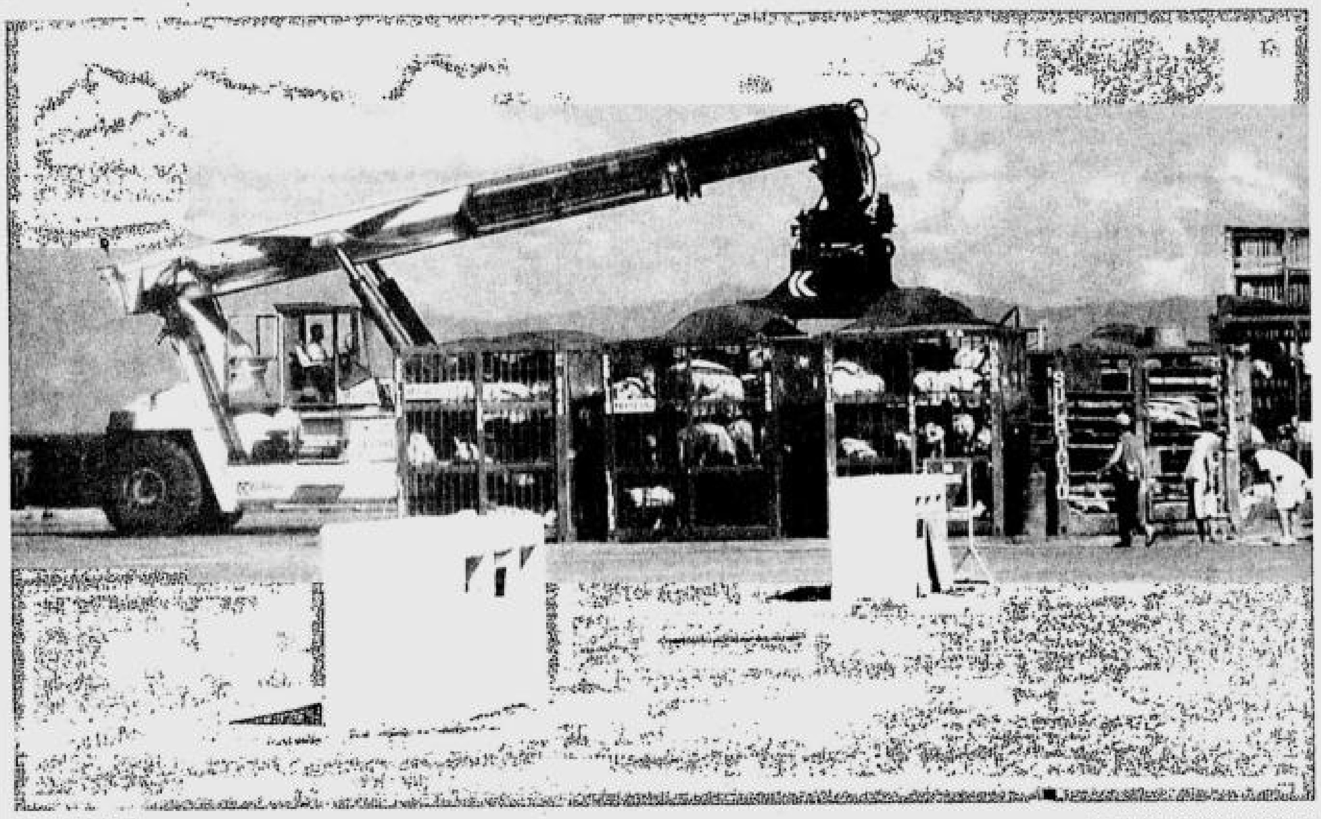
Last week, Duterte met with former Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez and discussed calls for the establishment of a Mindanao republic.

Meanwhile, contrary to calls by Ms Arroyo's other allies and critics, Duterte said the President should just keep her mouth shut on the "Hello Garci" tapes.

"She should not answer it," Duterte said.

He said the President's critics would only find more issues to confront the President with once she answered the allegations that she worked with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to ensure her victory during the elections.

"All the issues are manufactured by them, so why would she answer? Let them prove their case," Duterte said. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



JEOFFREY MAITEM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

PIG PORT
Workers load live pigs for export at the Makar Port in General Santos City. The city, aside from exporting tuna, is also a major exporter of live pigs.

Crisis forcing South Mindanao firms to close

DAVAO CITY—The economic crisis being felt in the country has forced at least 13 establishments in Southern Mindanao to fold up, data from the Department of Labor and Employment and the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed.

The data said eight of the business closures were permanent, displacing at least 249 workers.

Gloria Tango, DOLE director, said the rate of closures was expected to increase toward the end of the year gauging from the 2004 data, which showed that from January-December of that year, a total of 30 establishments closed shop, affecting 1,130 workers.

Despite the closures and warnings from management to close shop once additional wages were implemented, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) approved an additional P15 cost of living allowance (Cola) for workers in the private sector in the region.

The additional Cola, which would only be given to those receiving the minimum wage, would be reflected in pay slips starting July 2.

But labor groups slammed the Cola increase as "consuelo de bobo."

Labor representatives in the wage board, Jorge Alegarbes and Virginia Camus, refused to sign the new wage order.

"We can't only look at the concern of the workers, we have to balance both sides such as the viability of the employer to pay," Tango said in explaining the increase.

Bonifacio Uy, director of the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) in the region, said with the new wage order, the monthly income of a minimum wage earner increased to P5,824.

Tango said the wage board will monitor the implementation of the new wage order in six months then decide whether to integrate the P15 Cola with the minimum wage. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Villagers split over gold, copper mining

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Environment advocates and mining officials may have opposing views on the proposed mining project in an upland village here, but they agree on one thing: that residents have been divided because of the mining controversy.

Sr. Maria Eden Orlino, director of the Diocesan Social Action Center, a church-based organization, expressed concern that the planned mining activity was starting to affect the lives of residents, mostly tribal folk, of Barangay Didipio in Kasibu town, about 70 km from here.

"The [mining project] had not yet started, yet it has already divided the people and destroyed their culture. It's frightening to think of how much more damage it could cause once it started its operations," Orlino said.

Didipio is the site of the proposed large-scale mining operation of Climax-Arimco Mining Corp. (CAMC), an Australian-owned company that was granted a financial and/or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) in 1994.

It was also granted an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) in August 2004.

The company has identified 17 mining prospects covering an area of 21,000 hectares in Didipio Valley, including the Dinkidi gold-copper project.

The $102-million Dinkidi project seeks to process aboout four million ounces of gold and 1.5 billion ounces of copper deposits underneath the Dinkidi Hill in Sitio Bacbacan, in a span of 14 years.

However, CAMC could not start operations due to its failure to obtain the consent of Ifugao, Kalanguya, Ibaloi and Bugkalot villagers in the area.

Orlino said the division among the people became apparent during Monday's mining summit, which was attended by about 1,000 residents from Didipio and other barangays of Kasibu.

"It was evident on the faces of the people how fragmented their community had become as they listened to the speakers. Their indigenous culture had started to disintegrate as there were instances that some no longer showed respect for others," she said.

Peter Duyapat, village council member, expressed the same sentiment.

"It's sad because our people are now divided. Even family members, relatives and former friends are now at odds with one another because one is anti-mining and the other is pro-mining. It is money that is dividing us," he said.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Arnel Arrojo, CAMC project manager for Didipio, but he did not answer calls and did not respond to text messages. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Village hit by malaria declares calamity state

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Officials of Barangay Apopong here declared the village in a state of calamity following the outbreak of cerebral malaria, which already killed at least one person.

Delia Rabanes, Apopong village chief, told reporters here that a resolution declaring the calamity state was passed by the barangay council Monday afternoon.

This, she said, would enable the barangay to use its 5 percent calamity fund.

At least 18 other people had been downed by the disease.

Earlier, Apopong barangay kagawad Roger Lambot said 28 residents of Purok Lorenzo in the same barangay had been hit by malaria.

Different figures

But Benjamin Pagarigan, medical director of the government-run City Integrated Hospital, said only 18 malaria victims had been brought to the CIH.

He said the patients showed traces of malaria falsiparum.

This type of strain causes cerebral damage but is easy to cure if detected at an early stage, according to Pagarigan.

However, Pagarigan said that if left untreated, the disease could easily kill as what happened to the lone fatality, identified as Felipe de la Cruz.

De la Cruz died on Wednesday last week.

Felipe's wife was also confined, along with her two sons Ruel and Joey, at the CIH due to the same illness.

The De la Cruz family arrived in Purok Lorenzo from Esperanza town, Sultan Kudarat, two weeks ago.

Symptoms

Felipe had complained of headache, chilling and high fever.

It could not be established whether the couple got the malaria from their place of origin or here.

The disease then spread, afflicting more residents.

Alarmed by the death of De la Cruz, the village chair immediately brought to the hospital other residents showing the same symptoms.

City Health Officer Virginia Ramirez told reporters that health workers had already conducted residual spraying in the malaria-hit village to kill mosquitoes.

Local health officials also rallied villagers to clean their surroundings to destroy the breeding ground of mosquitoes. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Jueteng' draws held twice a day in Batangas town

MALVAR, Batangas—The controversial "jueteng," that the police proudly announced they had totally stopped, is now on the rise again, with two draws every day, in this town and allegedly operated by a relative of the mayor.

According to an INQUIRER source, who runs a business in town, the draws started again on Friday.

"The jueteng collectors were everywhere. We were really shocked to see them collecting bets again, fearing that if the police saw them, they might get arrested. But they said the police and the jueteng lord of Batangas had given them the go-signal to operate again," the INQUIRER source, who requested anonymity, said.

Asked if he knew who the jueteng lord is, the source said everybody knows who "fatso" is.

"Even a grade school pupil knows who 'Taba' is. If you want to see him, just go to the capitol," the source said, "jueteng in Malvar resumed last Friday."

The INQUIRER called Mayor Cristeta Reyes' cell phone a couple of times on Monday and Tuesday, but her phone was off.

But just as the provincial police office in Batangas announced that jueteng operations had completely stopped in the entire province, the provincial jail in Barangay Cuta, Batangas City, became the venue for jueteng draws.

Gov. Armand Sanchez's brother-in-law, Lutgardo Natanauan, also known in Sto. Tomas town as the "operator," was the governor's appointed provincial warden. *Mei Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

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Memories of attack haunt Myrna

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

DIONES

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Binalonan, Pangasinan

THESE days you will find Myrna Diones, 29, reading the Bible—her way of finding solace from the memories that continue to haunt her 14 years after she survived an attack by policemen in La Union.

Diones' story caught people's attention in 1991 when she, her sister and two cousins were arrested on suspicion of stealing clothes from the public market of San Fernando City in La Union.

They were jailed, stabbed several times with bamboo slats and thrown into a 300-meter deep ravine on Naguilian Road in Sablan, Benguet, where they were left for dead.

It was an experience so horrible for the then 15-year-old Diones that each word she uttered to recall what occurred on June 17 to 21, 1991, brought tears.

"The pain is too much," she said softly in Ilocano.

Her three companions—eldest sister Zenaida Diones, 35, and her cousins Laureta Diones, 21, and Vivian Gonzales, 35, who was nine months pregnant—died in that attack.

But Diones came back from the "dead" to tell the story that shocked the country—of how she survived at least six stab wounds, how she managed to live for three days in the abyss, and how she opened her eyes and moved her hands just before she was to be embalmed.

Diones also rejected a P3-million bribe from supporters of the policemen in exchange for her withdrawal of the cases. She showed the world how a young, poor girl could resist the lure of money that could have made her life comfortable.

In her young mind and heart, all she wanted was to attain justice for the death of her sister and two cousins.

Diones is now married to Cipriano Fronda with whom she has three children—Armingard, 11; Brady, 8, and Chinchin, 6. She has quietly settled in Barangay Sili in Binalonan town since 1997.

After the incident, Supt. Mario Sandiego, then chief of the Criminal Investigation Service (now Criminal Investigation and Detection Group) in the Cordillera, looked after her for more than a year.

She was later moved to different safe houses (she recalled that she lived in at least 15 safe houses) provided by the Department of Justice under its witness protection program.

But she eventually got tired of living in safe houses. In 1997, after giving birth to her and Fronda's second child, she decided it was time to go home. The two were married and returned to Binalonan.

Her family settled in a house built on a lot bought with the money she was paid for the rights to make a movie based on her life. The movie, which starred Kris Aquino, was banned in San Fernando City, she said.

Diones sells vinegar, fish sauce and other condiments to help augment her husband's income. The store was put up with the money given by Sandiego.

Still a 'celebrity'

Diones is still a "celebrity" of sorts in Binalonan, as practically every tricycle driver in the town knows where she lives.

She said her neighbors started noticing a white van passing several times in front of her house at midnight after she was featured in a TV show early this year. Its occupants, the neighbors said, were asking where she lived.

This, she said, prompted her to ask village officials to install a streetlight in front of her house. She also asked the local police for help and officials provided her with a free telephone connection so she could call the station during emergencies.

The scars on Diones' body are hardly visible now. But the emotional pain caused by her experience keeps troubling her, especially around the month that it happened.

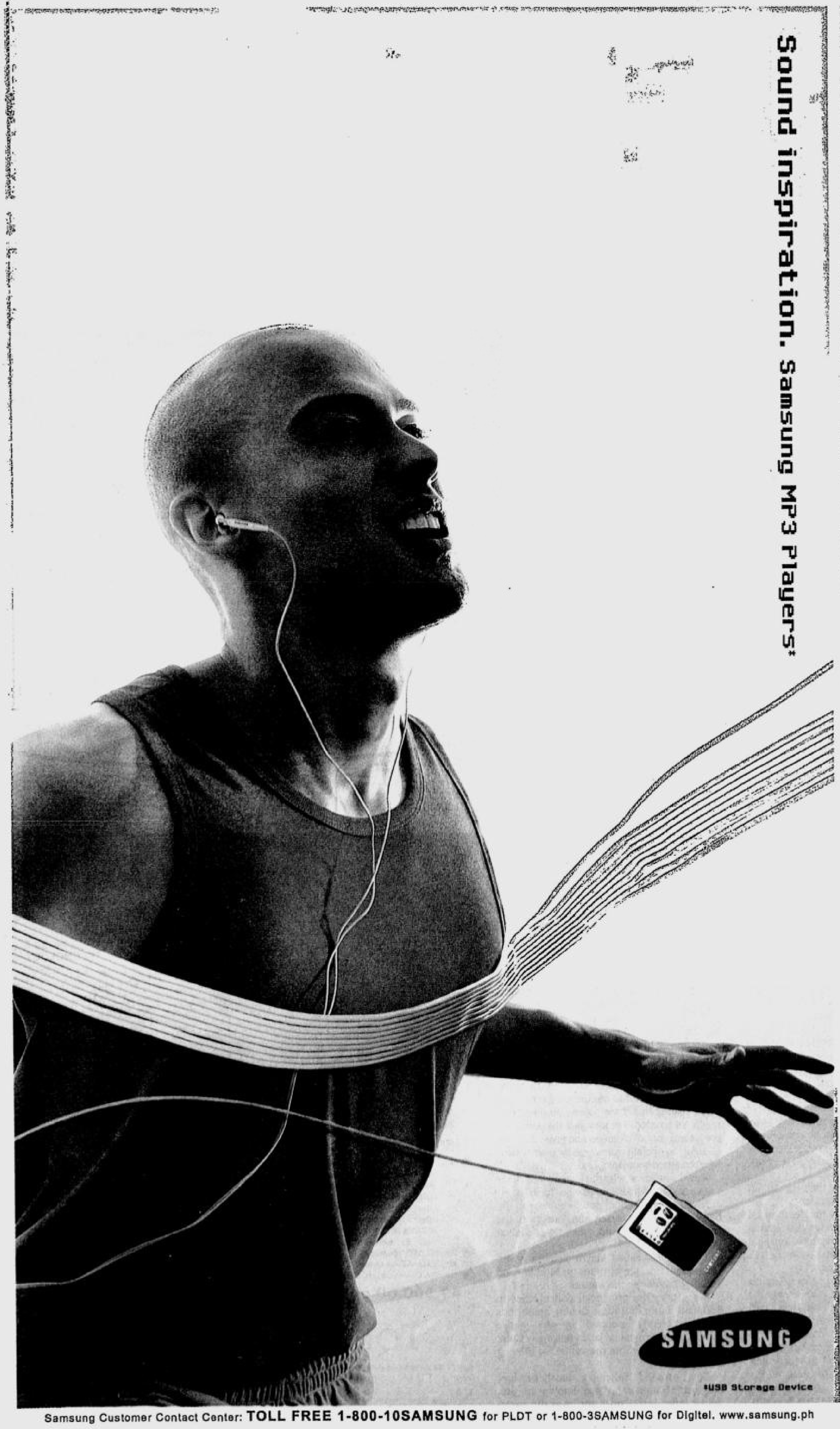
"I still get very afraid," she said, adding that she does not leave the house whenever the incident's anniversary comes.

Every June 19, when the bodies of her companions were found, there would be prayer offerings in her house. She would also visit the spot on Naguilian Road to light some candles.

"But not now, I do not have extra money to do that," she said.

Did she regret refusing the P3-million bribe offered her? "No," she said and shook her head.

She said even her parents wanted her to accept the money. But Diones was resolute in her decision to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice. The five policemen are now serving life sentences.



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The Diones story

IN THE morning of June 17, 1991, Diones, accompanied by her sister Zenaida, and her cousins Laureta Diones and Vivian Gonzales, went to San Fernando City to get her enrollment money from her brother Toribio.

The four decided to buy school supplies at the San Fernando market. While she was shopping for uniforms, her companions were looking at some pairs of pants.

"I noticed a man, who had a gun, intently observing them. Later, the man approached them and I got afraid. I asked the man what was happening. He said [my relatives were] stealing the pants," Diones said.

The four women were then taken to the Cannaway police station and stayed there until June 18.

At past midnight, a man, whom Diones described as *tisoy* (fair-complexioned), arrived and asked the policemen how their *alaga* (wards) were.

The policemen then asked them to leave the cell, saying they would be taken to the house of a local official. The four women refused, and said they would rather stay in jail until morning.

"But we were dragged into a police vehicle," Diones recalled.

In the car, she saw ropes and several bamboo slats with pointed ends. She also recalled that six men, including the driver, were aboard the vehicle.

Inside the vehicle, the policemen handcuffed them and tied ropes around their necks "very tightly." The policemen also stabbed them using the bamboo slats.

Diones, who was stabbed in the back, chest and armpits, passed out. The next thing she knew, she was at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) in Baguio City. She was told that she was found two days after the bodies of her companions were found at the ravine in Barangay Banangan in Sablan, Benguet.

Mistaken for dead, Diones was taken to the BGHMC morgue but she surprised everyone when she opened her eyes and moved her hands.

At the hospital, several people started to offer help. Supt. Mario Sandiego offered to adopt her, lawyer Pablito Sanidad offered free legal services and publisher Ofelia Dimalanta raised funds for her hospitalization. Even then President Fidel Ramos and his nephew, then Pangasinan Rep. Ranjit Shahani, and Manuel Morato lent their support for Diones.

The case was resolved in a record four months by then Baguio Judge Romeo Brawner and the perpetrators were sentenced to life in prison.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes

Ramos sis: 'Not afraid of a handyman'

By Armand N. Nocum

A VERY confident Ester Ramos-Bailey appeared at the Department of Justice (DOJ) yesterday, vehemently denying that she had ordered their family handyman, Roberto Lumagui, to "scare" her sister Alicia Ramos, assistant foreign affairs secretary, who was found dead in her apartment on April 24.

"I'm not afraid of a handyman," said Bailey. Looking relaxed in a gray pinstripe suit, Bailey submitted a counter-affidavit at a preliminary investigation of the case, showing that contrary to Lumagui's claim, she never ordered him to break into her sister's house in Makati City.

She also submitted a certification from the St. Claire Medical Center, where she is confined for manic depression, indicating that she was in the center from Nov. 4, 2004, to Jan. 15, 2005. Lumagui had never visited her, and neither did she give him a call during her confinement at the center, she said, adding that Lumagui's claim is "groundless and irrational."

Lumagui is one of three suspects in the crime. The others are Joel Ablay and Michael Senil.

Bailey denied that she had given the order to pressure Ramos into releasing the pension she had been receiving as a widow of a United States military officer.

According to Bailey, her son US MSgt. Stuart B. Bailey, who is assigned in Japan, "is the authorized signatory to any document or check necessary for the release of such funds."

"It is clear that such funds are not controlled by my sister Alicia, and no amount of threats on her could have accomplished the purpose claimed by Lumagui," she said.

Bailey also revealed that Lumagui "constantly" asked Alicia for money, and her sister often agreed "just to appease him."

Yesterday, State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco requested Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 147 Judge Maria Cristina Cornejo to defer the arraignment of the three suspects because of the ongoing preliminary investigation.

"We are looking into the possibility that one of the suspects might be dropped from the charge sheet, depending on the results of the investigation," Velasco said. *With Jocelyn R. Uy*

Police hold 8 suspects for slay of Korean trader

By Luige A. del Puerto

THREE $100 bills could prove crucial in pinning down eight suspects linked to the killing of a Korean businessman in Cavite last May. The eight are now in the hands of the police.

The dollar bills bore the mark "k" inside a small circle—indicating these could have been drawn from a Korean bank, according to Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, chief of the Region 4-A Police.

Investigators believed that the bills were part of $12,000 or P3.6 million taken from Seok Soo Lee, an executive of Keyrin Electronics Inc. who was robbed and shot dead on May 23 in Kawit, Cavite.

On June 17, police nabbed Fernando Diza, 42, Jina Diza, 39, and Nolito Opiana, 35, all of Rosario, Cavite, with the dollar bills. They admitted that the May 23 loot was divided among members of the notorious Fernando Cagoco group. Opiana, a former security officer of the Korean firm, also admitted to being the group's tipster.

Two days later, the police nabbed Alexander Arevalo of Bacoor, Cavite, who admitted that they were planning to rob a grocery store in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The information led to the arrest of Abelardo Capistrano, 49; Rolando Mondido, 29; Joel Manipol, 30, and a 14-year-old boy. The suspects were presented to the media in Camp Crame yesterday.

But other members of the group, including its alleged leader Fernando Cagoco, eluded arrest. Those who escaped were Junior Dagsa alias "Panot," Bernard Manipol alias "Bernie," Jose Ronald Callanga alias "Ronnie," and Angelo Tnu.

Yesterday, Ki-Tae Park, police attaché of the Korean Embassy, thanked the police for their swift action.

He urged investigators to do a thorough investigation and arrest the suspected gunman, who remains at large.

Police authorities said the Cagoco gang, which operated mostly in Southern Luzon, was also responsible for a series of robberies that targeted grocery stores and gasoline stations in Cavite.

Printing press owner faces raps for anti-GMA posters

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will file charges against the owner of a printing press in Quezon City which allegedly reproduced posters depicting President Macapagal-Arroyo as the infamous local comic book villain Valentina.

NBI Interpol chief Ricardo Diaz identified the owner of Always Graphic and Printing Services at 74-A Molave St., Project 3, as Michael Fitzgerald Agbayani Ligot.

Diaz said charges for violation of Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code, or unlawful use of means of publication and unlawful utterances, would be filed against Ligot.

"We will also consider filing charges of libel or inciting to sedition against him if it is proven that he had been participating in the destabilization activities against the government," Diaz said.

The Interpol chief added that agents seized job orders from the printing press that showed the posters were commissioned by Noel Lopez of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, a nongovernment organization.

Diaz said two laborers who had printed the materials, including posters showing the President clad in a Darna costume, were invited for questioning but released the same day.

The militant group Sanlakas identified the laborers as Efren Orfelia and Rommel Gasit.

"This is political harassment and suppression," Wilson Fortaleza of Sanlakas said in a statement.

"The people must defend their right to free expression," Fortaleza added.

Fire hits Robinson's building in Ortigas

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FIRE hit the Robinson's Equitable Tower at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City early yesterday morning and sent about a thousand employees, mostly call center agents, running to the streets.

The blaze erupted at about 7 a.m. inside the mechanical room on the 33rd floor, which is occupied by a call center company.

The fire was controlled an hour later after razing more than P1 million in property, investigators said.

Nobody was seriously hurt, thanks to the immediate response of the security personnel of the building, who advised employees to go out calmly, FO1 Salvador Norberte said.

Insp. Ronald Sanchez collapsed after minutes of exposure to smoke, said city fire marshal Ricardo Perdigon.

The fire spread to the mechanical rooms starting from the 27th to the 47th floors.

Perdigon said the fire was electricity-related.

Investigation is ongoing to determine what exactly triggered the fire.

Accused in Comelec exec's killing acquitted

By Tina G. Santos

CITING lack of evidence, a Manila judge yesterday acquitted the suspect in the killing of Commission on Elections public relations director Velma Cinco in November 2001.

Judge Reynaldo A. Alhambra of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 53 acquitted Conrado Robles of murder and frustrated murder.

Cinco, 62, Comelec director for education and information, was on her way to work when two motorcycle-riding men ambushed her on Pedro Gil Street, Sta. Ana.

Her sister Marian Jayme was riding in the back of the car when the ambush took place.

Cinco died from multiple gunshot wounds, while her son Carlo was hit on his right shoulder. Jayme escaped unhurt.

In her testimony, Jayme insisted on her identification of Robles, a former Comelec employee, as the person who stared at her from behind a pair of sunglasses and a towel.

She said she identified him through a scar on his forehead.

But Alhambra said Jayme's testimony "fell short of the standard mandated by the Constitution."

He noted that Jayme's testimony was prepared after she saw Robles in detention at the National Bureau of Investigation.

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Pasig Pipe Project

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We regret the inconvenience the temporary water service interruption will cause in the following areas of Brgy. Santolan: Evangelista St., F. Pasco Ave., Tawiran Ext., Paseo de Animales, Concepcion St., Doroteo St., Gabriel St., Sto. Tomas St., Victorino St., M. De Leon St., Dumandan St., Sta. Lucia St., Carlaville Subd., Mirasol Subd. and Buenmar Subdivision.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

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(PDI – June 22, 2005)

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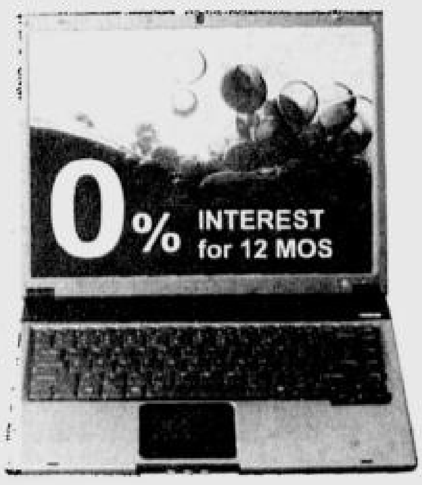

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LTFRB: No fare matrix, no fare hike

By Clarissa S. Batino

NO FARE matrix, no fare hike.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) reiterated this yesterday after it was swamped with complaints about jeepney drivers already charging the P2 fare increase even while they had not yet secured a fare matrix.

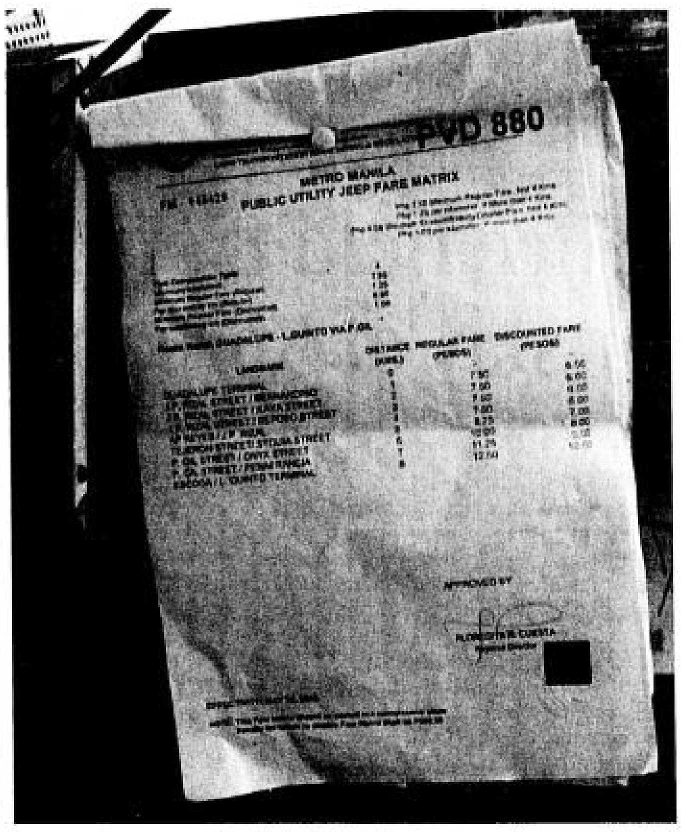
LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista warned drivers against the illegal charging of the new fare as a commuters' group asked the Department of Transportation and Communication to stop the fare increase.

The National Council for Commuter Protection (NCCP) Inc., in its petition to the DOTC, said the LTFRB abused its discretion when it approved an "excessive" fare hike.

NCCP said the fare hike should only be P1.

Sen. Mar Roxas echoed the NCCP plea as he said the fare increase was a double whammy for consumers.

The chair of the Senate committee on trade and commerce said the hike was unfair because it appeared that certain relevant factors were not considered by the LTFRB.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METRO MANILA
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THE LTFRB is telling drivers that they can only charge the new, higher fares if the original fare matrix, like the one above, is displayed in jeepneys and buses in full view of passengers. REM ZAMORA

Of the 45,000 jeepneys in Metro Manila, the operators of only 6,000 units had paid their dues: a P550 filing fee which entitles them to a free fare matrix.

Of those who had paid, only about 1,500 had secured their fare matrices.

However, of the non-airconditioned metro buses, Bautista said the matrices for almost all of about 1,000 units had been released.

Extra copies

Extra copies of a fare matrix, or "taripa," cost P50 each.

The matrix outlines the charge for the minimum distance in each route, and the fare for every additional kilometer thereafter. Each fare matrix is specifically issued to each jeepney or bus unit. The matrix even has the plate number of the vehicle.

The original of the fare matrix, not a photocopy, has to be displayed inside the unit where it can readily be seen by passengers.

This should serve as a guide to passengers as to when drivers should start adding the P1.25 per km fare on top of the new minimum fare of P7.50 for the first four km.

By lunch time yesterday, the LTFRB already received about 50 complaints. Most complaints were about the charging of new rates by jeepney drivers despite their unit not having a fare matrix.

Complaints

Many of the calls were from the cities of Caloocan, Mandaluyong, Valenzuela and Manila, an officer at the LTFRB complaints desk said.

The LTFRB said it would slap a fine of P500 on drivers who would be caught violating this rule for the first time, P1,000 for the second time and a cancellation of the franchise for the third time.

In the meantime, drivers and operators who will not honor the 20-percent discount provided for students, disabled and senior citizens will be slapped a penalty of P500 every time they are caught, according to Bautista.

The LTFRB urged commuters to report violations to Bautista's number at 426-2505 or 426-2515.

"Commuters must report the plate number or the driver's name so we could apprehend them," urged Bautista.

Yesterday, jeepney drivers in Luzon began charging P7.50 for the first four km and P1.25 for every additional km, provided they had a fare matrix. Metro buses with matrices started collecting P8 for the first five km plus P1.75 for every additional km.

Students and elders need only pay a minimum fare of P6 to jeeps and P6.40 to metro buses.

At a Mandaluyong City jeepney terminal, designated fare collectors have started charging P7.50 even when most of the jeepneys using the depot have not acquired a fare matrix.

Fare is centrally collected at the terminal before the jeepney leaves for a trip.

But while expressing surprise, most passengers flocking to the terminal near the Edsa-Boni Avenue Station of the Metro Rail Transit just paid the higher fare.

"Just to avoid trouble," a passenger said.

Not all drivers

Despite the complaints, most drivers in Metro Manila have not raised their rates.

"I'm still charging the old rates," said Roderick, 35, who plies the Pasig-Quiapo route. "I still do not have a fare matrix," he explained to the INQUIRER.

A copy of the old fare matrix was still posted in his jeepney.

In Malabon City, some commuters said they would not mind any fare increase as long as the drivers displayed a fare matrix.

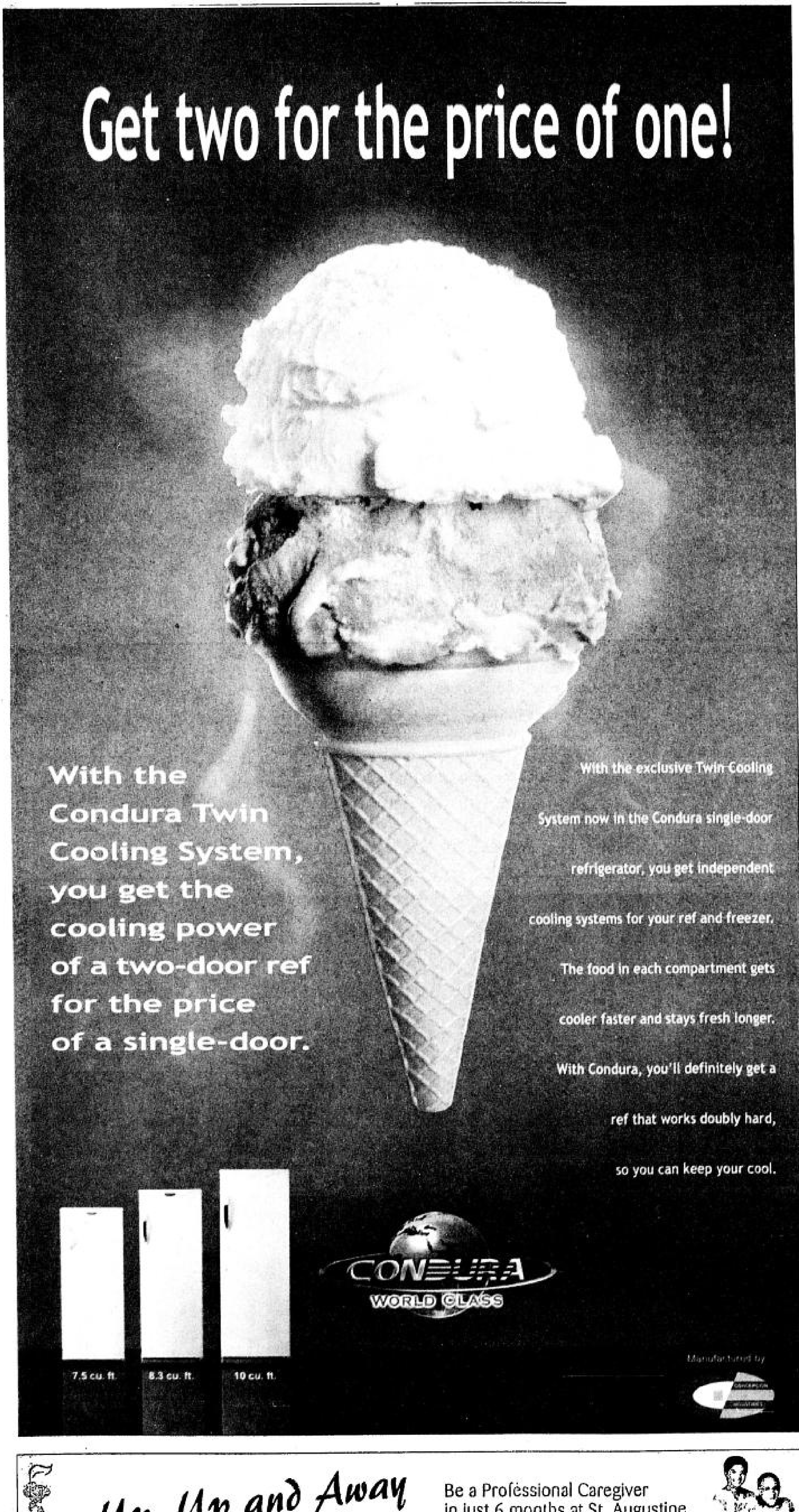
In the meantime, while most jeepneys have yet to show a fare schedule, passengers are enjoying the dying days of lower fares.

"The driver did not ask me for additional fare, so I paid P5.50," Flor Baltazar of Malabon told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Cheryll Marcelo said she paid P5 only from her house on C-3 Road to the Caloocan City Hall where she worked.

For his part, bus rider Felix Custodio said he was resigned to the higher fares.

"Life's like that. What can we do? We can't walk to work," said Custodio, who daily takes a bus from C-3 Road to the MRT station on Edsa. *With DJ Yap, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Nancy C. Carvajal*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TENNIS: Wimbledon; Second Round; 12:30 p.m. (r) and 7 p.m.; First Round Highlights; 6 p.m.; STAR Sports—Check out first round action on the grass courts of Wimbledon.

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Red Bull, Shell out to tie series

EXPECT Red Bull and Shell to do most of the fine-tuning when both squads try to avoid a 0-2 hole in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference semifinals today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"The natural tendency is for the loser to make more adjustments than the winner," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico after the Beermen's 89-81 come-from-behind victory over the Barako in the best-of-five series opener.

Taking a little time before shaking off the rust after a long layoff, the Beermen had to battle back from 14 points down before stopping the Barako, who had bumped off tougher teams in the wildcard phase and quarterfinals.

Danny Seigle, the league's leading local scorer, could show up for the Beermen today. Seigle missed San Miguel Beer's last four games after twisting his right ankle a month ago.

"We can let him play or just suit up and stay on the bench," said Uichico. "I'll just figure that out on Wednesday (today)."

The Barako, along with the Turbo Chargers, have had two days to alter their strategy, something that is not lost on the Beermen and the Phone Pals.

"We need to be on our toes all the time and meet the challenge of their adjustment," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, whose Phone Pals clobbered the Turbo Chargers, 97-74, in Game 1 of their series.

The Phone Pals are seeking an eighth consecutive win over the Turbo Chargers, a streak that dates back to the elimination round of last conference's Philippine Cup. That streak included a Talk 'N Text sweep of Shell in the semifinals.

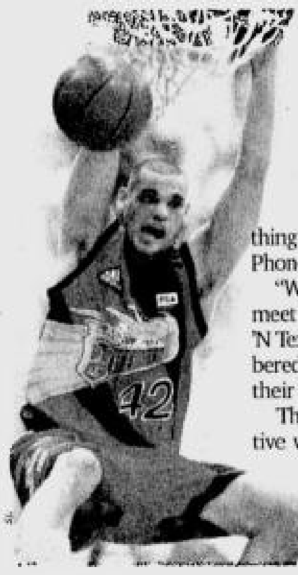
"Sweeping Shell again in the same phase is easier said than done," said Banal. "We have to bear in mind that this team overcame adversity by winning four straight playoff games prior to this series," said Banal.

Willie Miller, Vic Pablo, Mark Telan and Jimmy Alapag relieved Jerald Honeycutt of the chores on both ends of the floor in Game 1 by helping the Phone Pals blow the game wide open right after intermission.

"We hope to continue playing this way and we'll again come out prepared against them," added Banal.

Fatigue obviously got the better of the Turbo Chargers, whose only double-digit contributor was guard Roger Yap. Ajani Williams, who averaged at least 27 points prior to the semifinals, was a pitiful sight on the floor against Honeycutt.

The Barako fought to the very end after wasting a 14-point advantage, only to fall prey to the clutch shooting of Dondon Hontiveros. The Cebuano sniper shot seven of the Beermen's last 11 points to complete the San Miguel rally. *June Navarro*



SEIGLE: Ready to play, but it's all up to coach Jong Uichico.

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:45 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs San Miguel Beer
7:35 p.m.—Shell vs Talk 'N Text
Game 1 recap: Talk 'N Text d. Shell, 97-74; San Miguel d. Red Bull, 89-81

RP's Araullo rules tough Sarawak Triathlon

FILIPINA Sandra Araullo made an awe-inspiring charge in the final leg to rule the Sarawak International Triathlon in Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia, over the weekend.

Araullo shadowed pacesetter Stephanie Chok of Malaysia in the swim and bike legs before seizing the lead in the Elite Open division as soon as the frontrunners took off their head gears for the final 10-km run.

The Philippines' back-to-back triathlon champion soloed it home with a time of 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Chok settled for second place, ahead of veteran compatriot Fiona Lim.

It was the second straight year a Filipina topped the tough Sarawak competition, which again drew scores of international triathletes.

Former national champion Ani de Leon, winner of last year's event, was in the thick of the fight until a leg injury stopped her cold in the run leg.

Araullo, who is already assured of a slot in the country's Southeast Asian Games team, improved on her impressive third-place finish in the recent Subic Bay International Triathlon.

Veteran Razani Hussein put away the Elite Open crown as Malaysian triathletes struck hardest in the men's competition by sweeping the top three places.

The Philippines' Arland Macaieb, a former Asian aquathlon champion and the country's reigning champion, failed to finish due to a malfunctioning bike.

"We are certainly proud of Araullo's victory and it showed that she is peaking well," said Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco.

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Rich allowance scheme, instead of cash prizes

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines will hand out a relatively lucrative allowance scheme to chess players who will qualify for both the national team and the national pool to ease the sting of its "no-prize money" policy in the qualification tournaments.

Under the scheme, those who qualify for the RP team will receive a P500-a-day allowance from the NCFP, on top of the P7,000-a-month monthly stipend from the Philippine Sports Commission.

Those who do not qualify for the national team will be relegated to the national pool and will receive a monthly allowance of P5,000, according to NCFP head Go Teng Kok.

Go offered the scheme to end a brewing player revolt, which he said is being orchestrated by forces out to taint the NCFP leadership under his watch. *Musong R. Castillo*

'POC will get Fiba nod'

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee is confident the new cage body it formed in lieu of the suspended Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) will eventually win recognition from the world governing body for basketball.

POC chair Robert Aventajado said during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Seafood Wharf Restaurant in Manila that the Fiba (*Federation Internationale de Basketball*) has no other recourse but to recognize the group, collectively known as the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. (PBFI) since it has the support of all major basketball stakeholders in the country.

"I could be wrong, but the Fiba will have no choice but to recognize this group since this body truly represents basketball in the country," said Aventajado during the weekly session sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

The PBFI, under interim head Buddy Encarnado, also chair of the Philippine Basketball Association, is set to hold its election of officers at 3 p.m. tomorrow at the Tektite Towers in Ortigas.

The meeting takes place a week before the POC tackles the possible expulsion of the BAP on June 30 during the body's general assembly at the Milky Way Restaurant in Makati. The expulsion vote needs two-thirds of the 39 assembly votes.

Aventajado, however, conceded that the beleaguered association still has clout because it is still being recognized by Fiba.

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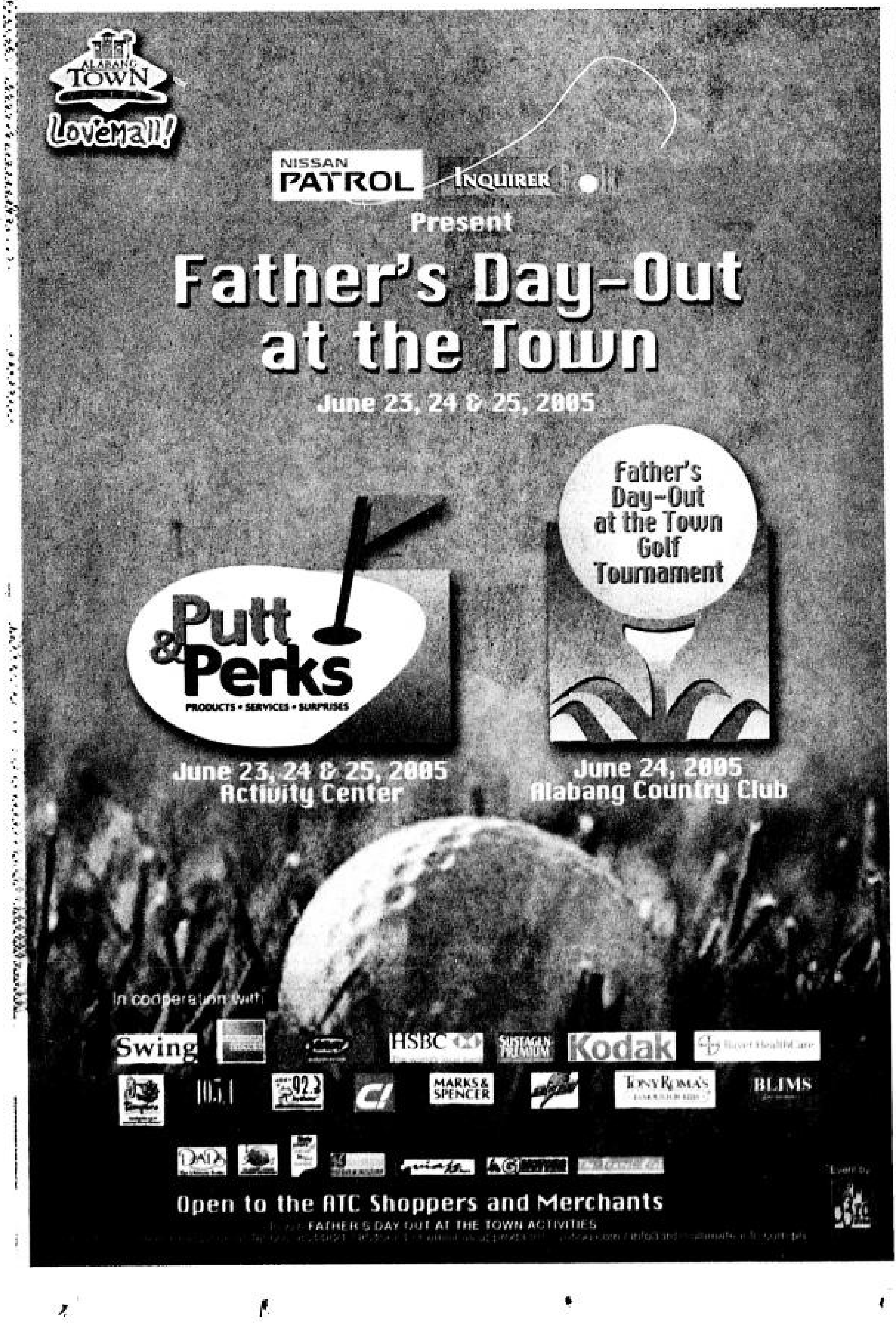

After PBL, it's back to college wars for two Welcoat stars

ORBETA: St. Benilde

NAJORDA: SSC

By Jasmine W. Payo

WELCOAT'S key figures during its championship run in the PBL Unity Cup will have little time for a breather before going their separate ways in the 81st NCAA basketball season.

San Sebastian's Leo Najorda and St. Benilde's Paolo Orbeta will turn into rivals as they try to lead their respective schools in the country's oldest collegiate league.

Orbeta will have his Welcoat coach, Caloy Garcia, calling the shots for St. Benilde.

With only a few days left before the 81st NCAA season fires off, the duo barely paused after winning the PBL Unity Cup title with Welcoat Paints last Thursday.

"This is a bigger challenge for me," said Garcia, who will try to turn the Blazers from cellar-dwellers to Final Four contenders with the help of the energized Orbeta.

Orbeta bagged the Fantastic Freshman award as a Paint Master. The senior point guard will lead the Blazers' charge when they open their campaign against Jose Rizal University at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Najorda, the 2003 NCAA Most Valuable Player, will lead the Stags as they kick off their own bid against Mapua at 6 p.m.

2 games up in NBC south, north

ACTION in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship resumes today with a couple of games in two different venues.

It will be the Parañaque Jets of vice mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana against the Zamboanga del Norte Hornbills at the San Dionisio gym in Parañaque and Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia Golden Harvest against the Iloilo Warriors of IBL president Robert Uy and strong supporter Gov. Niel Tupas at the University of San Agustin gym.

Both matches will be played at 6 p.m.

The Jets hope to level their Northern Conference record at 3-3, while the Golden Harvest, who dropped a thrilling 79-82 overtime decision to the Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Mantawi (Mandaue) Sparkling Nights two days ago, are shooting for their third victory in seven games.

The Warriors are banking on Edu Allado and Eldrin Senierez in their bid to improve their Southern Conference slate to 2-2.

Burly Jun Arquero will be at the forefront of the Hornbills' bid to end their four-game skid.

Praise be to Robert Horry at his horrifying best

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

AFTER the coach, superstars get hoisted on a riotous victory ride.

But when they celebrate the NBA coronation any moment this week in Texas, the entire San Antonio team should first pay tribute to a silent hero before they allow themselves to be sucked in a triumphant stampede.

Robert Horry, owner of several NBA championship rings (five in all—two with Houston, three with the Lakers), should get something bigger than a ride on sweaty shoulders.

That's not very likely to come, though.

Maybe Horry would get a hug or chest-to-chest thump from a teammate nearby.

What Horry deserves is a toast fit for the greatest game by a quiet role clutch player this starry, starry side of cagedom.

Horry had won the NBA championship for the Spurs in Detroit on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), well ahead of normal schedule.

That's not an exaggeration.

There's no way the Detroit Pistons could reverse the tide after they had allowed a wide-open Horry killer triple that instantly cancelled all their hometown heroics in Games 3 and 4 of the 2005 NBA Finals.

* * *

Coach Larry Brown has only Rasheed Wallace, who sagged, oh so foolishly toward Manu Ginobili, to blame for the most dramatic shot in the finest game of the Finals that had looked stale and flat until Game 5.

But, really, looking back, did Wallace, fresh from a spirited short jumper that nearly sapped San Antonio hopes, ever suspect Horry was still loaded, fully armed?

Retracing the unforgivable Wallace booboo, it was easy to say he was totally blind to the Horry threat.

The guy looked completely harmless.

There was no menace in his quiet face.

Horry appeared more like a tame mouse, far from a snarling panther all set to jump at the innocent prey.

* * *

For one thing, Horry had just hurt a shoulder after coming down from a driving dunk that cut the Detroit lead to 95-93, a minute and 25 ticks left in overtime.

In fact, Horry had also appeared miserable after missing the bonus free throw from that slash slam.

Horry, for the record, was the most prolific 3-point shooter in NBA Finals history.

In what could go down as his most unforgettable game on Tuesday in Detroit, he had 21 points on 7-of-12 shooting.

Starting late in the third quarter to the final buzzer, he was to score a total of five 3-pointers.

But, then, who would've thought or suspected Horry still had the Finals' greatest basket in him after he had looked spent, tame, harmless?

Manu Ginobili, who else?

* * *

There was no denying coach Greg Popovich had designed and ordered the final play, on deep left corner, for Ginobili.

It went like this: With 9.4 seconds left, Horry inbounded to the scooting Ginobili, who instantly received double coverage from Tayshaun Prince and the unsuspecting Wallace.

Finding no quarters, Ginobili, by instinct, zipped a pass back to Horry who stood almost impishly on the arc.

There was thick turmoil, but before the entire over-filled stadium could realize it, Horry had already hurled the bomb that appeared to have instantly killed all hopes of a back-to-back NBA crown for the Pistons.

There were still 5.8 seconds left in overtime but the whole house went dumb.

The assassination was cold-blooded, incredible as the stoppage of a hometown hero who had been well ahead on points.

The resembling thrill for fans out in San Antonio in the American West Coast could be likened to the ecstatic stoppage scored by Muhammad Ali when he stopped George Foreman in the Rumble in the Jungle of 1974 in Zaire.

* * *

Well, unlike the favored Foreman, who was to go down in fragments in 1974, the Detroit Pistons will report physically intact from that harrowing loss for today's scheduled Game 6 in Texas where there's no clear memory of them beating the hometown squad.

But the Pistons will have to search deep and grab hard at the championship spirit which promises to be totally elusive in San Antonio.

As could be expected, there will be strict orders for a tight watch on Horry, more so if he again plays possum in the homestretch.

Frankly, your reporter here had been rooting for the Pistons but, if ever dared, my brandy (Torres 10, please) money now goes for the Spurs to wrap it up if not today, on Friday.

Before the curtains, Horry had to be asked the routine what and why of how he did it.

Nothing big really, said the man who simply refused to sound and loom like a superstar.

Horry said his secret, if a secret it could be called, was that he truly loves basketball.

Or, to put it more sincerely, he loves this thing called honest Team Basketball which, unfortunately, has all but been forgotten in this, our forsaken land of corrupt, incompetent leaders and overpaid individualistic stars.

• Due to a transmission problem, Beth Celis' In Huddle column will see print tomorrow, instead of today. Ms. Celis is covering a Fiba-Asia tourney in China.

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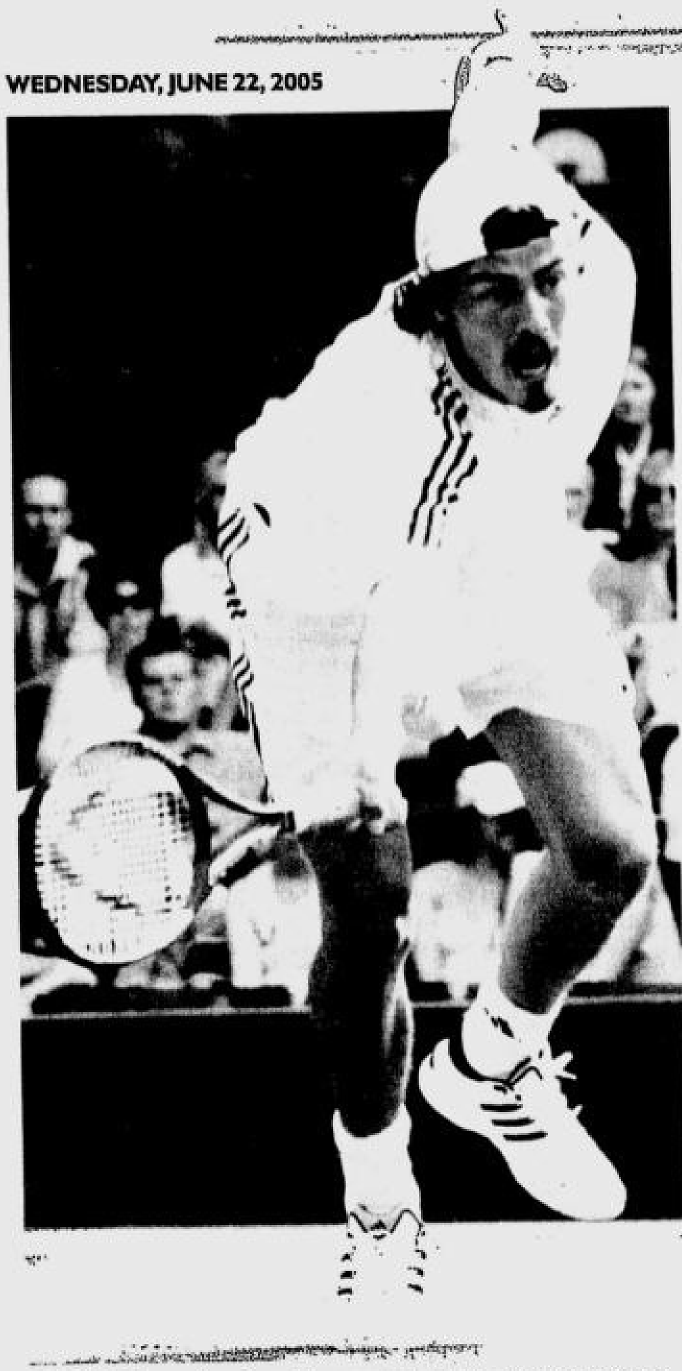

MARAT Safin, a self-professed temperamental grass-hater, ousts Thai star Paradorn Srichaphan. REUTERS

WIMBLEDON

Safin, Federer strike

Philippoussis marks comeback with victory

WIMBLEDON, England—An ominous development for the rest of the men's field at Wimbledon: Marat Safin is beginning to find his footing on grass.

The mercurial Russian overcame his career-long aversion to lawn tennis on Monday and beat Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand, 6-2, 6-4, 6-4.

A first-round victory by a two-time Grand Slam champion might seem like no big deal. But Safin has advanced beyond the second round at Wimbledon only once, and after a first-round loss last year he said he was done with trying to win on grass.

Even when Safin won the Australian Open in January, he was unsure whether he would play at Wimbledon. Now he lurks as a threat to claim his second major title this year.

"After what I've seen, it looks like he's getting more comfortable on the surface," said 2003 runner-up Mark Philippoussis, who will play Safin in the second round on Wednesday.

Against Paradorn, the No. 5-seeded Safin moved well despite a knee injury that has hampered him in recent weeks and prompted him to plan a month-long layoff after Wimbledon. He had 46 winners and just 13 unforced errors, lost just 11 points on his first serve and was broken only once.

Safin, who has battled a slump on all surfaces in recent months, judged the performance his best since Australia.

"I felt really comfortable, actually, and really confident," he said. "I wish I could play this level of tennis every day. I'm trying."

With a rueful smile, Safin acknowledged that he still hates grass. He said he's trying to change that with the help of coach Peter Lundgren, who has encouraged Safin to play more aggressively on the surface.

There were signs of progress at the grass event two weeks ago in Halle, Germany, where Safin won four matches before losing a three-set final to two-time defending Wimbledon champion Roger Federer.

Meanwhile, back on his favorite stage, the top-ranked Federer hit four aces in his first service game and successfully began his bid for a third consecutive Wimbledon title by beating Paul-Henri Mathieu, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

Federer walked on the hallowed court to a warm ovation, hit 18 aces and extended his grass-court winning streak to 30 matches, including 15 at the All England Club.

"A good start," Federer said.

Third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt, the 2002 champion, hit 19 aces and beat Christophe Rochus, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.

No. 16 Mariano Puerta, the French Open runner-up two weeks ago, lost to Lars Burgsmuller, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4.

Anastasia Myskina, the 2004 French Open champion, was on the verge of her second successive first-round exit at a major event when she rallied to beat 18-year-old qualifier Katerina Bohmova, 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

No. 10 Patty Schnyder instead became the first seeded player to be eliminated. She was upset by Antonella Serra Zanetti, 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-3.

Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, the 1999 champion, needed just 41 minutes to beat Alina Jidkova, 6-0, 6-2.

Other women's winners included No. 3 Amelie Mauresmo, No. 15 Kim Clijsters and US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Mauresmo beat lucky loser Melinda Czink, 6-3, 6-2, and Clijsters swept Katie O'Brien, 6-2, 6-3. Kuznetsova, seeded fifth, drubbed Rebecca Llewellyn, 6-0, 6-1. *AP*

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Brown not blaming Wallace for Horry shot

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—At times during Larry Brown's sleepless night, the Detroit coach probably blamed Rasheed Wallace for the defensive mix-up that led to Robert Horry's winning 3-pointer in Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Sunday.

But on Monday, Brown refused to criticize his star forward in public—even though he reminded his players "about 25 times" to prevent the Spurs' best clutch shooter from taking a 3-pointer.

"Ultimately, maybe we didn't say it enough," Brown said before their flight to San Antonio for Game 6 on Tuesday. "That's coaching. I just think it was a great player trying to make the right play. I don't want any one guy to take any (blame) personally. This is not track and field. This is a team sport."

Many Pistons fans didn't see it that way after Wallace inexplicably tried to double-team Manu Ginobili in the corner. Horry, who inbounded the ball with 9.6 seconds left, got the return pass and hit his fifth 3-pointer of the night, leading to San Antonio's 96-95 victory.

"I guess there was miscommunication," Brown said—careful not to say much more.

Callers to local talk-radio shows had plenty to say, flooding the airwaves with calls for Wallace's head. *AP*

Campbell eyes British Open

PINEHURST, North Carolina—Michael Campbell can play the British Open at St. Andrews next month no longer thinking about an opportunity that didn't come along for another 10 years.

When Campbell won the US Open on Sunday, the New Zealander grasped the first opportunity he had to win a major championship since he blew his chance in 1995 on the Old Course.

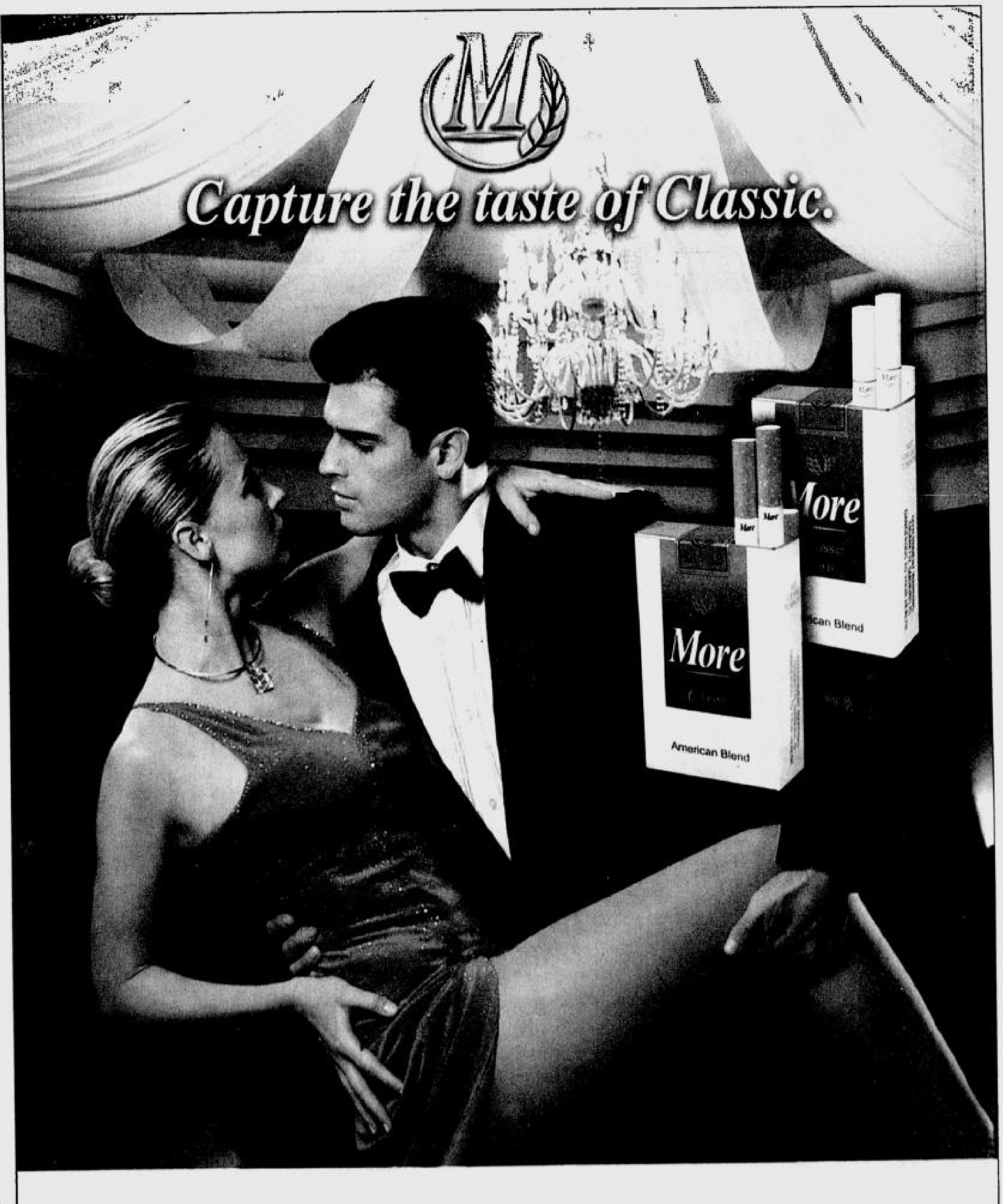
His shot from the Road Hole bunker on the 17th skipped up the sodded bank to within centimeters (inches) to save par, and he had the 54-hole lead. Then he shot 76 in the final round to miss by one shot the playoff won by John Daly.

"It's just been an interesting journey the last 10 years," Campbell said on Sunday. "Leading the Open championship back in '95 and having a chance to win a major championship, it wasn't my time to win. But today was."

Now he goes to St. Andrews from July 14-17 as the US Open champion, one who didn't slide through the back door. Under the pressure of a final round, with cheers rocking around him every time Tiger Woods made a birdie, Campbell played with poise and confidence to become the first qualifier to win since Steve Jones in 1996.

He also joined 1963 British Open winner Bob Charles as the only Kiwis with a major.

"Deep down inside, I knew that I had something special in me to do something special," Campbell said. *AP*



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San Mig Light adventure race begins July 16

THE STAGE is set anew for the biggest adventure race competition in the country, the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures 2005, which promises to be more exciting and thrilling.

For the past two years, San Mig Light, has staged a different kind of sporting activity.

The event tests the racers' endurance and strength in dealing with complex physical tasks like rappelling, kayaking and spelunking.

There will also be mind games and brainteasers to challenge the racers.

Last year's race brought the participants to Boracay and Manila. This year's edition has been expanded to Baguio, Cebu and Manila.

Its first leg kicks off in the highlands of Baguio on July 16, followed by the Cebu City stage on Aug. 6. It will have its grand finale on Sept. 17 in Metro Manila.

The country's sports enthusiasts, weekend warriors, mountaineers, triathletes, yuppies, outdoor lovers and even students are invited to take part.

"The challenges and the tasks will be entirely different from last year," said race director Neyney Guevarra.

Call the Enduro hotline at (632) 4141489 or log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph for race details.

More than P100,000 will be up for grabs in this event presented by San Mig Light and organized by X-10 Events Inc.

Immonen joins Cebu challenge

CEBU CITY—Former world champion Mika Immonen leads seven world-class cue masters in the Sun Star Super Balita International 9-Ball Challenge event which kicks off on Thursday at the SM City Trade Hall here.

Immonen will be joined by former European champion Marcus Chamat of Denmark and five Filipinos led by San Miguel Asian Tour Manila leg winner Ronnie Alcano and past Cebu champions Dennis Orcullo and Antonio Gabica.

Past Asian Tour winners Lee Van Corteza and Warren Kiamco round out the field.

The tournament will follow a unique round-robin type format, where each player will face the rest of the field in individual one-on-one matches. The first player to score six wins will be declared champion and will pocket a trophy and cash prize.

This international event serves as a preview of a new billiards TV show using this unique format and featuring eight of the top billiards players in the world. This new two-hour show, dubbed as "Cue Masters" begins airing in July on IBC-13. It is a production of Rocketman Enterprises and backed up by Outlast Battery, Cafe Puro and Touch Mobile.

"We anticipate that the unique nature of this program will excite local billiards fans, especially considering that each match is a virtual do-or-die contest," said Ramon Tuason, president of Rocketman.

IMMONEN

Meanwhile, in the 4th Sun Star Superbalita 9-Ball Challenge proper, Warren Kiamco advanced to the next round after posting a tough 7-6 win over Violito Catingan on Monday.

The 28-year-old Talisay City native Catingan won the lag and cleaned the first rack for a 1-0 lead before a dry break in the next rack allowed Kiamco, who hasn't played in Cebu for years, to level the match at 1-1.

The match was still tied after 10 racks before Kiamco showed his best shots for a 6-5 lead only to bungle his shot on the four and allow Catingan to level the match anew.

"When I missed the four, I thought I'd lost," Kiamco said. "He was making good shots," However, Catingan's next break in the final rack was dry again, allowing Kiamco to take the victory.

In other matches, Tata Villarasa defeated 20-year-old Oliver Yap, 7-2; Lito Diga beat Achilles Navarra, 7-5; Ricky Zerna tripped Bernard Marabella 7-5; and Panfilo Damu-ag routed Vincent Lopez, 7-0.

Manalo enters RP Int'l 9-Ball Open qualifying

MARLON Manalo, fresh from his breakthrough win in the Reno Open in Nevada, USA, leads a long list of bidders in the Philippine International 9-Ball Open qualifying round on June 25-26 at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall.

The top 12 finishers in the double knockout event will join the 20 seeded players in the main draw of the biggest billiards open in the country.

Already assured of spots in the main draw are Filipinos Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan; Americans Johnny Archer, Gabe Owen, Corey Deuel, Rodney Morris and Charlie Williams; European stars Mika Immonen, Neils Feijen, Thorstenn Hohmann, Tony Drago, Marcus Chamat and Thomas Engert; Taiwanese big guns Chao Fong Pang, Yang Ching Shun and Wu Chia Ching; Japanese aces Satoshi Kawabata and Kunihiko Takahashi and Korean Jeong Young-hwa.

SPORTSWATCH

Tallon's Invitational Golf June 24

THE LEX Tallonis Fraternitas Inc. of San Beda College of Law and Ateneo de Davao and the San Beda Law Golf Club Inc. will stage the 5th Tallon's Invitational Golf Cup on June 24 at Villamor Golf Club, Pasay City. Tee-off time is 9 to 11 a.m. Ticket which includes green fee, caddie fee, meals and raffle prizes, is P1,700. Major sponsor is Globelines. Among the Gold Hole sponsors are lawyer Alfredo C. Lim, Kho Bustos Malcontento Argosino Law Offices, lawyer Raymund Mecate and lawyer Cesar Jimenea. For inquiries, call 01978921210 (Ben Malcontento).

6-cock derby finals at Airport Casino

THE FIRST ever 6-cock derby to be staged at Airport Casino Filipino in Sucat, Parañaque, will have its championship round today. Only the two-pointers and three-pointers qualify for the 3-cock finals of the event promoted by Big E Gaming Corp. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P1 million. Leaders with three wins each are Tiny Meneses (Sto. Tomas), Dante Carandang (Dan Gray), Manny and Arman Santos (ABP I), Danny Nunez (NSA), Tony Velasco (Adelfa King), Konsi Malaguin (San Jason), Ramon Panaligan (Camagong) and Kalawit entry. For information, contact 827 -8707 and 788 -0959 (look for Cindy).

Sta. Ana hosts Fastest Win One-Cock

MORE than 150 fights are scheduled in the showdown of smalltime cockers and backyard breeders in Sta. Ana Cockpit's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" on Saturday. Due to the big number of entries, the event will start at 7 a.m. and last up to midnight, according to pit manager Gerald Go. The first 10 winners gets one 14" color TV each. Promoters Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola said entry fee is P1,500. For inquiries, contact 898-3474 and 898-3475 or 0921-5191962 (Aba).

Sports broadcaster's dad dies

RAMON Alfonso A. Fuentes, father of sports broadcaster Boom Gonzales and uncle of sportswriter Edwin Gabutina, died on Monday after a lingering illness. He was 74. His remains will be taken to the Loyola Memorial Chapels. Viewing will start on Friday. The cremation is set at 8 p.m. on June 28.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR . 999

Race 1—1. Empire State 2. Free Rein 3. Reign of Fire 4. Wing Away

Race 2—1. Color of the Wind 2. Kalashnikov 3. Lucky Fil 4. Sweet Serenade

Race 3—1. Seniority 2. Farragut's Order 3. Gold Pyramid 4. Noor 5. Hello Junior

Race 4—1. Mighty Story/Latin Success 2. Crafty Treasure 3. Dixie Dash 4. Silent Witness

Race 5—1. Bulakeña 2. Moneyline 3. Sweet Connections 4. Southern Charm

Race 6—1. Mika's Pride 2. Tiger Winie 3. Rho Sig 4. Big Bucks

Race 7—1. El Montruo 2. Rock Attack Attack 3. Batang Kalookan 4. Sovereign Dancer

Race 8—1. Pyramid Relaunch 2. Dazzling Affair 3. Lead Story 4. Mr. Bonjing 5. That's My Tiger 6. Speedster

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INQBOX

Question of the Week

Do you think that President Gloria Arroyo still has the credibility to lead our nation? Why or why not?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! ☺*

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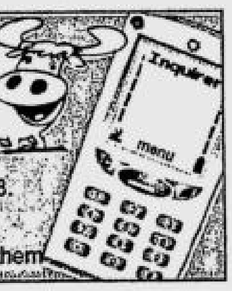

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Laura Jean
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ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Oh! Feel Young	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		TBA	Nuts Entertainment			Sakal
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	Tough Enough	7 Days		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep up the Good Work w/ Joey Lina		Pangako Mo
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		On Air Tambayan		Dink	Junior Reyes Report	Bestfriends	Celebrity Single	Retro TV	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
JackTV	Banzai	X-Men	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Fitter	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Kids Choice Awards			As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Live!		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Committed	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Ipagdarasal Kita				Sugatang Puso		Trip Kita, Type Mo Ba?			Persona	Now That I Have You (9:15 PM)				Ang Pagbabalik Ng Probinsyano			
Studio 23						Super Gals		Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I. (8:15PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
AXN		The Amazing Race 5		Next Action Star		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Associates		Alias (Season III)		Maximum Exposure (Season I)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: NY (Season I)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		The Practice		JAG		Friends	One Tree Hill
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	MainSail	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Pharaoh's Week		Last Chance Journeys		The Sea Hunters		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Showreal Asia		Deep Jungle	
Solar Sports		TV Shopping	WTA '05 Pacific Life Open Indian Wells, USA						Women's Volleyball '04				Sports Desk	NBA Greatest Game				Vintage NBA	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special Sarah Jessica Parker		You're Invited	Life & Style		Style Star	Nigella Bites II	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO	Lady Jane (2:45 PM)					The First Wives Club (5:15 PM)				Batman Forever				Hulk				Dragonheart (11:15PM)	
Star Movies	Bulletproof Monk (2:45 PM)				Sense And Sensibility					Phenomenon (6:55 PM)				The River Wild				Killer Bees (10:55PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Static Shock	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	Zoids Fusors	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Land Before Time II: The Great Valley Adventure			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	What Katy Did	
Cinemax				Try To Remember			The Fear Inside (5:45PM)				The Evil That Men Do			Empire Of The Sun					Eight Legged Freaks
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Missing		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		MissingDynasty: Behind The Sex, Greed And Manipulation			Strong Medicine (10:30PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye (11:25PM)		
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Future Storm: Hell On Earth		Cleopatra's Lost City		Kamikaze In Color		First Time Film Makers		Lion Battlefield		Extraordinary Experiences: Queen Mary 2, Birth Of A Legend		Crossings: Ju Ming	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL		Backstreet Boys Incomplete	MTV Dives		Wade Robson	Dismissed	Boiling Point	Pimp My Ride	On Board at MTV	Making the Movie Sin City	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus						Get A Grip On Golf	Golf Globe '03	Porsche ind. 4	French Open '05 Finals						BD 13 South Beach	NCAA C'ship Final			

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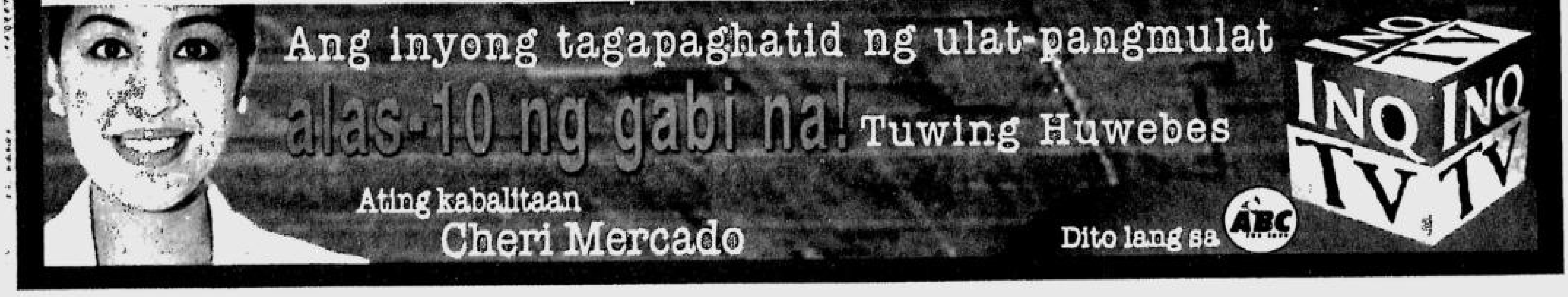
Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Rivermaya wows 'em in Pattaya fest

RIVERMAYA'S Rico Blanco

RIVERMAYA, MTV Asia Awards 2005's Favorite Artist for the Philippines, wowed crowds of music lovers from all over Asia at the recent Pattaya International Music Festival in Thailand.

The festival is an annual event organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. This year, the government was ably assisted by MTV Thailand. In 2004, the fest attracted some 600,000 people. Attendance this year reached a million.

Rivermaya, locally dubbed "Ang Banda ng Bayan," was featured on the "Love Box" and "World Box" stages, which featured Asian and international artists, respectively.

"They absolutely rocked," said Laila Bunnag of Thailand's MTV Trax Magazine.

"Rivermaya thrives and flourishes in a live setting," Daniel Sassoon of the Singaporean band Electrico added. "Great songs, excellent musicianship, boundless energy and unparalleled charisma—one of the best live acts I've seen. International fame should be beckoning if there is any justice left in this world!"

Apple Sumanasiri of MTV Thailand agreed: "Rivermaya's performances were among the most memorable and action-packed in this year's festival." The band performed both English and Filipino songs, including their hit "Liwanag sa Dilim."

"We were honored to have Rivermaya here," said Madame Jutamas Siriwan, governor of the Tourism Authority.

Band frontman Rico Blanco enthusiastically returned the compliment, declaring the event a "tremendous" experience. "The love we got back from the Thai audience was fantastic. We were proud to have the opportunity to share Filipino music with them."

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1 MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:20, 3:00, 5:40 8:20, 10:55 PG-13
2 BATMAN BEGINS 10:50, 1:55, 5:00 8:05, 11:10 GP
3 BATMAN BEGINS 10:20, 1:25, 4:30 7:35, 10:40 GP
4 NASAAN KA MAN 10:35, 1:05, 3:35 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 R-13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1 BATMAN BEGINS GP 1:25,4:10,6:55,9:40
2 BATMAN BEGINS GP 12:30,3:15,6:00,8:45
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13 1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
MR. & MRS SMITH PG13 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20
NASAAN KA MAN R13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
BATMAN BEGINS GP 11:35,2:20,5:05,7:50,10:35

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
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3 Nasaan Ka Man
4 Batman Begins
5 Mr & Mrs Smith
P75 Lang Dolby Digital Pa Experience @ Starmall Edsa 4 & 5 Metropolis 5

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5 Batman Begins
6 Nasaan Ka Man

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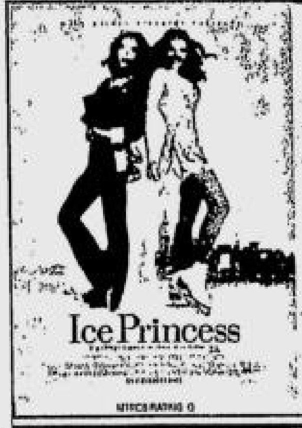
Diether Ocampo @ Metropolis June 19 Sunday

SM CINEMA movietime



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Big things happen to those who dream big.
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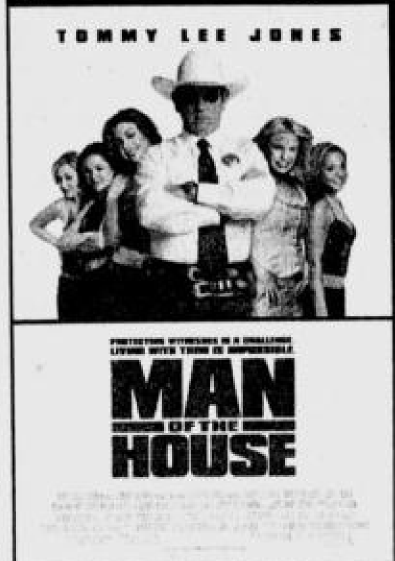
WAVE 89.1
Official Radio Partner

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium 633-8976
1 BATMAN BEGINS 11:05FS/11:30MF/02:15/05:05/07:45 10:05LFS/10:30LMF/12:50END
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:15FS/11:40MF/02:00/04:20/06:40 08:40LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END

megamall 633-1901
BATMAN BEGINS 11:15FS/11:45MF/02:30/05:15 07:35LFS/08:00LMF/10:20END

cebu (032) 231-3878
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III [illegible]
2 BATMAN BEGINS 10:40FS/10:50MF/01:30/04:10/06:50 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05/ 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END



Witness this hilarious comedy about a Texan ranger teamed up with cheerleaders!
Watch it EXCLUSIVELY at SM Cinema Manila starting June 15, 2005.
WAVE 89.1

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 HOTEL RWANDA
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 SHUTTER
8 ICE PRINCESS
9 MONSTER-IN-LAW
10 BATMAN BEGINS
11 NASAAN KA MAN
12 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE

sm city sta mesa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 SHUTTER
7 UNLEASHED
8 MAN OF THE HOUSE
9 KILITI
10 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm city fairview
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 PREMONITION
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 MONSTER-IN-LAW
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
9 SHUTTER
10 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
11 KILITI
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm city southmall
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
5 STARWARS: EPISODE III
6 MADAGASCAR
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 NASAAN KA MAN
9 SIN CITY
10 SHUTTER

sm supercenter sucat
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm north edsa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 HOTEL RWANDA
5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

sm city manila
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HOTEL RWANDA
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
6 BATMAN BEGINS
7 KILITI
8 A LOT LIKE LOVE
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 HOUSE OF WAX
11 SHUTTER
12 PREMONITION

sm city bicutan
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 SIN CITY
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 IN GOOD COMPANY
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 PREMONITION

sm city baguio
1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city bacoor
1 KILITI
2 MADAGASCAR
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MONSTER IN LAW
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 NASAAN KA MAN
7 PREMONITION
8 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city marilao
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city dasmariñas
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 PREMONITION
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city lucena
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city cagayan de oro
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 UNLEASHED
4 NASAAN KA MAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 MADAGASCAR
6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city iloilo
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 RESERVED
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 UNLEASHED
7 RESERVED
8 COACH CARTER

sm city davao
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 HOUSE OF WAX

sm city batangas
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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1 BATMAN BEGINS • THX
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
6 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO GALAXY
7 HOTEL RWANDA
8 NASAAN KA MAN
9 MADAGASCAR
10 STAR WARS Episode III

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 HOTEL RWANDA
5 SHUTTER
6 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO GALAXY
7 MONSTER-IN-LAW

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1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
2 SHUTTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO GALAXY
5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 COACH CARTER
8 NASAAN KA MAN

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
4 SIN CITY

PIONEER
687-5378

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO GALAXY
4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

BATMAN BEGINS

"Christopher Nolan's Batman Begins explores the Batman legend and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham in the wake of his parent's murder. Disillusioned industrial heir Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful."

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2 IN GOOD COMPANY
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 SIN CITY
5 BATMAN BEGINS
6 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

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2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 UNLEASHED
6 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

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3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 UNLEASHED

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Ten Most Beautiful Women Photo Exhibit
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G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 MR. & MRS. SMITH	2 BATMAN BEGINS	3 MONSTER-IN-LAW	4 NASAAN KA MAN
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	2 BATMAN BEGINS	3 THX BATMAN BEGINS GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 NASAAN KA MAN	5 HOTEL RWANDA	6 MOSNTER-IN-LAW	7 MR. & MRS. SMITH
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 MR. & MRS. SMITH	2 BATMAN BEGINS		
GB3	GREENBELT 1	1 THX MONSTER-IN-LAW GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX BATMAN BEGINS GUARANTEED SEATS		
		3 NASAAN KA MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MR. & MRS. SMITH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 MONSTER-IN-LAW		
		3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	4 NASAAN KA MAN	5 MR. & MRS. SMITH	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 A LOT LIKE LOVE	2 HOUSE OF WAX	3 BATMAN BEGINS	4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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the stars of
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TODAY
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with the stars
for the first thirty (30) moviegoers who will present their NASAAN KA MAN movietickets at the Glorietta 1 cinema customer service booth on June 22

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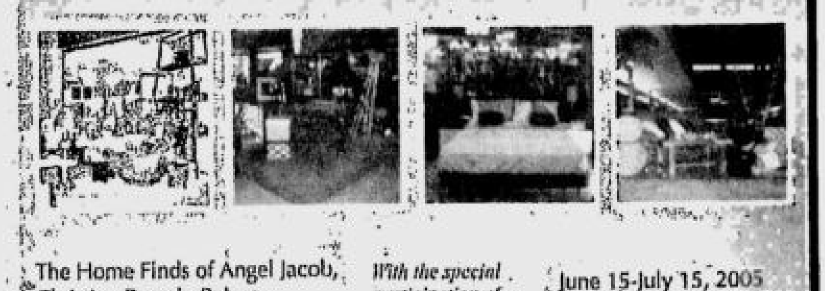


The Home Finds of Angel Jacob, Christine Bersola-Babao, Ces Drilon and Rico Blanco

With the special participation of Ana Rocha-Castillo

June 15-July 15, 2005
Home Market, 3rd Level

Meet the 'maestra'

From page A26

is busy with orchestral projects of his own.

The dream role of Elphaba in "Wicked" is in the faraway future. "I just have to work hard towards getting my voice there. I want to belt that high. So I sing Elphaba's songs in the shower. I love that show!"

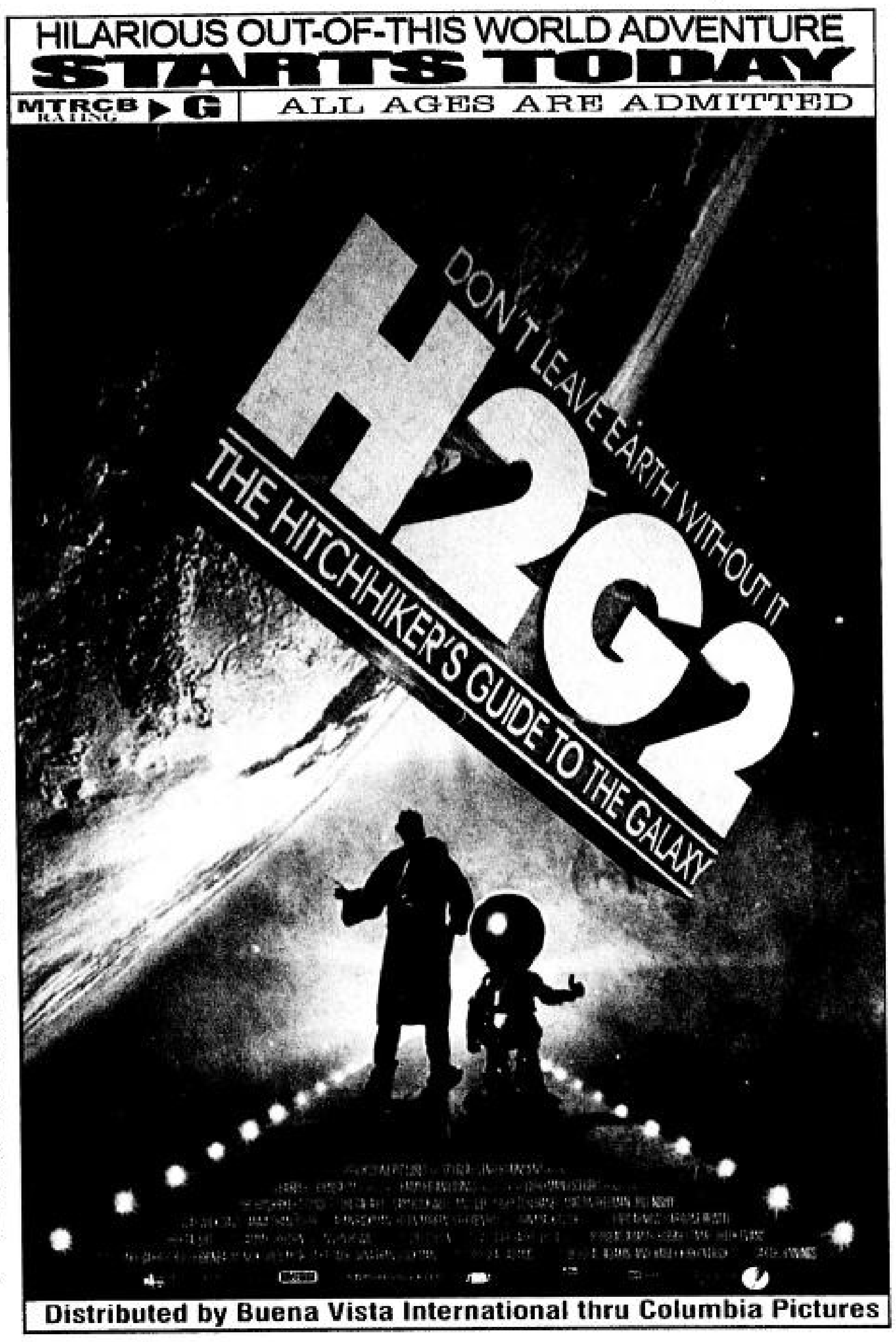
Next stop for the globe-trotting star, though, is Munich, Germany, where she is slated to perform at a Leonard Bernstein concert.

"I've been asked to sing Maria in 'West Side Story,' which is why I'm freaking out," she gasped. "I need to start warming up my voice!"

Of course, Lea is turning to Menchu for precious advice.

"Menchu was the perfect Maria when she did it at 18," Lea related. "I was only 10 then and I still remember it vividly. Her soprano was very pretty. She assures me that I can do it. Now, I rely on Menchu for encouragement."

The teacher is also a student.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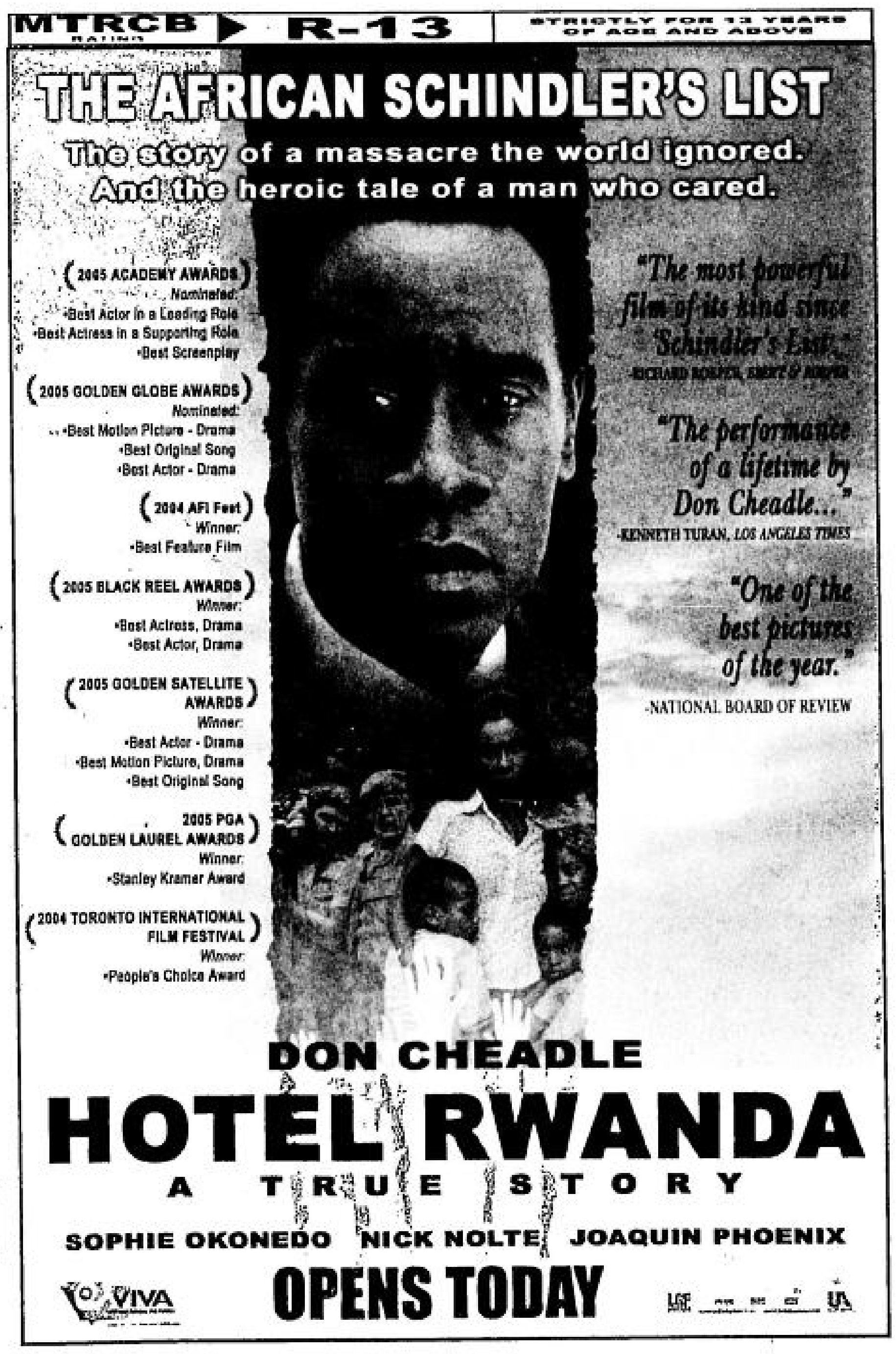
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Winner:
•Best Actress, Drama
•Best Actor, Drama

2005 GOLDEN SATELLITE AWARDS
Winner:
•Best Actor - Drama
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ENTERTAINME

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Meet the 'maestra'

Lea Salonga relishes her new role as mentor to ingénues KC Concepcion and Karel Marquez

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

I WANTED to throw up," international star Lea Salonga recalled the opening night of Atlantis Productions' "Beauty and the Beast."

It wasn't because she was the star of the show; she wasn't even in it. The tension was for that night's Belle, KC Concepcion, whom she had coached with Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo (they had coached the other Belle, Karel Marquez, as well).

Lea and Menchu, two theater stalwarts, were signed up by their friend, Atlantis director Bobby Garcia, to mold both KC and Karel into "a Disney heroine."

According to Bobby, Lea and Menchu generously shared their extensive experiences, which began at the Repertory Philippines in the '70s and climaxed in "Miss Saigon" (Menchu in the Manila production).

The two were the "apt" mentors for the neophytes, Bobby said, because they had mastered the "ingénue" role through the years.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

"Although I've never done Belle, I know the movie and the music really well," Lea told INQUIRER Entertainment at the cast party held after the play's premiere at the Meralco Theater on June 16. "There's something about Disney heroines."

KC and Ma'am Lea: "You can't hold back when you're teaching."

CONRAD DELFINO FOR ATLANTIS PRODUCTIONS

Lea should know. After all, she provided the singing voice to two Disney "princesses"—Jasmine in "Aladdin" and Fa Mulan in "Mulan."

"They're pretty ahead of their time," she said. "They're strong and independent, but at the same time they're light-hearted and sweet."

She tapped into this reservoir of knowledge for her new off-stage role.

Going beyond the call of duty, she was present at least once a week during the initial round of rehearsals, and every day once the troupe moved to the Meralco Theater.

"You can't hold back when you're coaching," she pointed out. "It's in the girls' best interest to be perfect. They're beautiful, but they also have to be interesting."

Lea said that, as teacher, she focused on the "technical," while Menchu's approach was more "organic."

"I value precision," she owned up. "I keep reminding them about their blocking, where to stand so as not to miss the light. Menchu, for her part, is all about emotion. Technique and emotion should mesh together. There has to be a balance."

Lea was quite a taskmaster, too. "I kept pounding into their heads: 'You have to follow a strict schedule. Get your makeup done. Get your wig done. Warm up before a show. Don't you notice that there's a difference when you vocalize? You have to do it, so that by the time you're onstage, you're warm, open, and ready to challenge yourself.' Once they're onstage, we cannot help them anymore. That's why we freak out and end up more nervous than they are before a show."

Standing ovation

Pen and notebook in hand, Lea had watched the press preview with an eagle eye, and had written down her observations. After the show, Bobby, Lea, and assistant director Chari Arespacochaga met with KC and Karel.

The following night, at the show's premiere, Lea beamed with pure pride as "their baby KC" took center stage—and especially after the crowd gave KC a standing ovation.

"We waited for the others to stand up first," Lea said. "But when she came out and the crowd gave her that rousing ovation, I felt so proud! It was really for her."

Two nights before, Karel's Belle was just as well-received. "She also gave a beautiful performance," the teacher said.

It's a different kind of fulfillment. "I cannot play the 20-year-old forever," Lea acknowledged. "At least now, producers can turn to other performers for such roles. I have to pass the torch now to girls who, I feel, can do it and carry on the tradition."

Fortunately, she said, both KC and Karel have an "obvious love" for theater. "You can see they enjoy being onstage. We can't pass it on to people who will not love it as much as we do. Because it can be a hard life. You give up a lot. If you are the show's lead, you cannot go out with friends. You cannot talk too much. You cannot stay up late."

Lea jested, not too belatedly, that she was quickly turning into her own Rep mentors, Baby Barredo and the late Zeneida "Bibot" Amador.

"I told Menchu that we were now officially the *gurangs* [oldies]! It's our affectionate name for them."

Trade secrets

Seriously: "When *Tita* Bibot passed away, we told ourselves: There are now so few people who do musical theater and do it well. We can't let the knowledge and the skills die with us."

She admitted that mom Ligaya, who could be a tad "competitive," was at first apprehensive about sharing "trade secrets." Lea said she explained that it was for a higher purpose.

However, Lea's husband Robert Chien, who had caught the premiere with her, was thrilled about this latest reinvention. "I think he enjoys that I am doing this."

Lea herself seemed to be having a ball. "I went completely and utterly nuts," she described herself at curtain call.

As for her original career as singer-actress?

A new BMG CD has been pushed to the back burner because her newly married brother/musical director Gerard Salonga

MEET/ A25

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Pangako	RA465
Nandito Ako	RA464
Mahal Kita Walang Iba	RA463
Kung Mawawala Ka	RA462

SONG TITLE	SONG CODE
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Ikaw Ang Pagibig	RA460
Hanggang Ngayon	RA459
Dito Sa Puso Ko	RA458
Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang	RA457
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Sa Kanya	sakanya
Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang	bakitngayon
Nandito Ako	nanditoako
Kung Mawawala Ka	mawawala
Ikaw Sana	ikawsana
Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka	pangarapko
Sana	sana
Dito Sa Puso Ko	ditosapuso
Mahal Kita Walang Iba	mahalkita
Pangako	pangako

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ENTERTAINMENT

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DUNKIN' DONUTS
Slabsters
PEANUT BUTTER FLAVORED TREAT WITH A SQUEEZE OF STRAWBERRY JELLY TOPPING

BJ FORBES

Children of the camera

Is it possible that the cast of 'Bubble Gang Jr' have the best of both worlds? They work and earn, but they also play and study—and they're home by 8 p.m.

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

NO ONE can claim that a gag show is their original idea," said Marivin Arayata, GMA 7 vice president for Entertainment.

Arayata was responding to accusations that his network's Sunday program, "Bubble Gang Jr." was conceived to directly compete with ABS-CBN's "Goin' Bulilit."

"In the past, we've seen 'Kulit Bulilit' and 'Kaluskos Musmos.' I've also handled those for Channels 9 and 13, respectively," Arayata said. "Then there was 'Ang TV.'"

A teenage Maricel Soriano led the cast of

CHILDREN/ A2-4

OPENING TODAY

Hotel Rwanda

Directed by Terry George; Stars Don Cheadle, Djimon Hounsou, Nick Nolte, Joaquin Phoenix

SUMMARY: Ten years ago, one million people were brutally murdered in Rwanda and the world didn't even notice. An ordinary man summons extraordinary courage to save the lives of over a thousand helpless refugees by granting them shelter in the hotel he manages.

In his Dec. 22, 2004 review for the Chicago Sun-Times, Roger Ebert wrote: "'Hotel Rwanda' is not about hotel management, but about heroism and survival ... the film works not because the screen is filled with meaningless special effects, formless action and vast digital armies, but because Cheadle, Nolte and the filmmakers are interested in how two men choose to function in an impossible situation. Because we sympathize with these men, we are moved by the film. Deep movie emotions for me usually come not when the characters are sad, but when they are good. You will see what I mean."

OPENING/ A2-4

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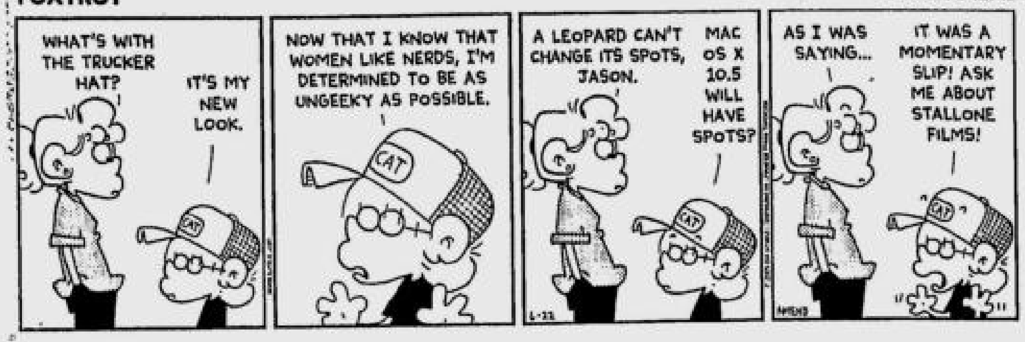
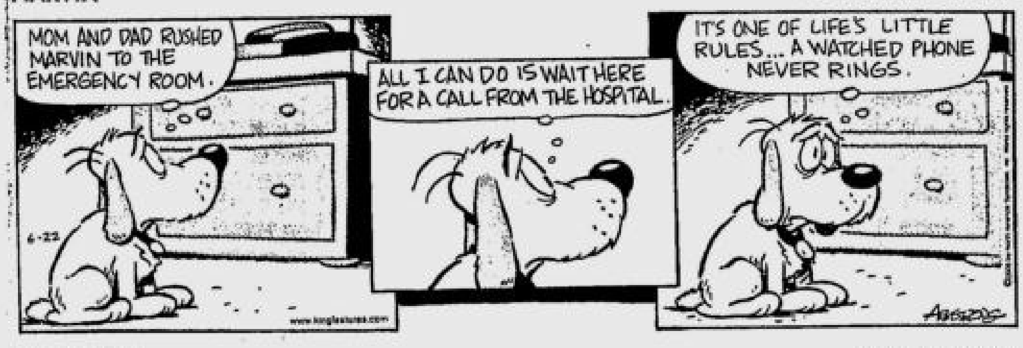

WHAT'S WITH THE TRUCKER HAT?
IT'S MY NEW LOOK.
NOW THAT I KNOW THAT WOMEN LIKE NERDS, I'M DETERMINED TO BE AS UNGEEKY AS POSSIBLE.
A LEOPARD CAN'T CHANGE ITS SPOTS, JASON.
MAC OS X 10.5 WILL HAVE SPOTS?
AS I WAS SAYING...
IT WAS A MOMENTARY SLIP! ASK ME ABOUT STALLONE FILMS!

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MOM AND DAD RUSHED MARVIN TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.
ALL I CAN DO IS WAIT HERE FOR A CALL FROM THE HOSPITAL.
IT'S ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE RULES... A WATCHED PHONE NEVER RINGS.
6-22
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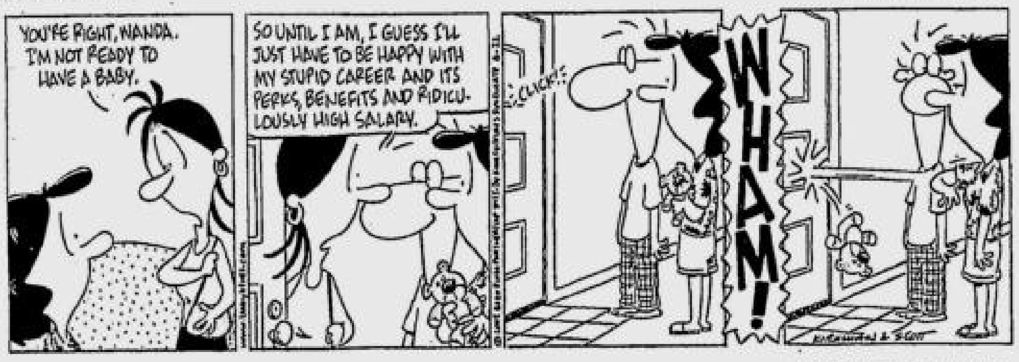
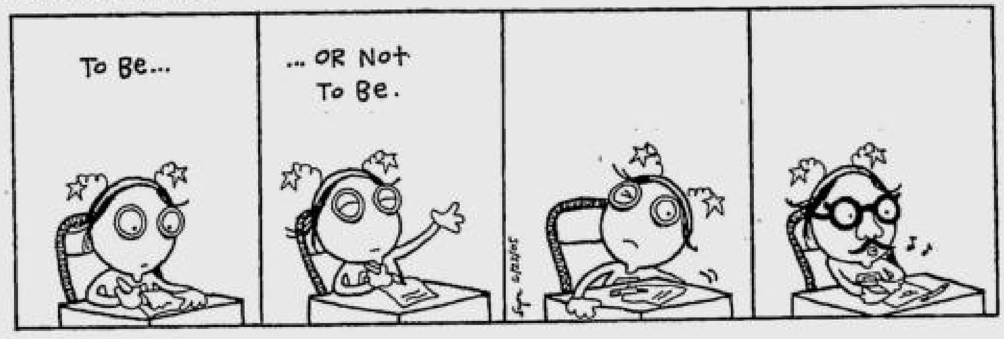
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU'RE RIGHT, WANDA. I'M NOT READY TO HAVE A BABY.
SO UNTIL I AM, I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE HAPPY WITH MY STUPID CAREER AND ITS PERKS, BENEFITS AND RIDICULOUSLY HIGH SALARY.
CLICK!
WHAM!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


To Be...
... OR Not To Be.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're romantic and emotionally sensitive. You can be swept away by your own passion. Your closest relationships mean a great deal to you. Your fantasies and imagination can be the inspiration for your work. Nevertheless, when you want to be, you're very practical. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life. Expect a miracle!

Birthdate of: Cyndi Lauper, singer; Amy Brenneman, actress; Meryl Streep, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This Full Moon makes you confused about where to put your energy. Should it be at home and in your personal life, or should you focus on your career?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be patient with others—and be careful driving. The Full Moon brings stress to these areas for your sign.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel pulled in two different directions about financial issues right now. Whose interests should you put first? This time you should focus on yourself.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Close partnerships and friendships are a bit dicey right now because of the Full Moon. The best way to approach this is to be extra-patient and understanding. Don't be demanding.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You need time alone, and yet you have a lot of work to do. Ideally, you'll be able to work in solitude. If not, cope as best you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A friend might not agree with you today (or vice versa). This Full Moon is aggravating this disagreement. Wait a few days, because it will mellow out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your relationship with authority figures (bosses, parents, teachers or the police) is a bit stressful now due to the Full Moon. After the Full Moon peaks, problems always diminish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Avoid arguments about religious and political issues. This Full Moon seems to polarize issues. But nothing is ever black and white. (Life isn't like that.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is not a good time to try to divide shared possessions. It's hard for you to be objective. Wait until this Full Moon has passed so that you can see things more clearly.

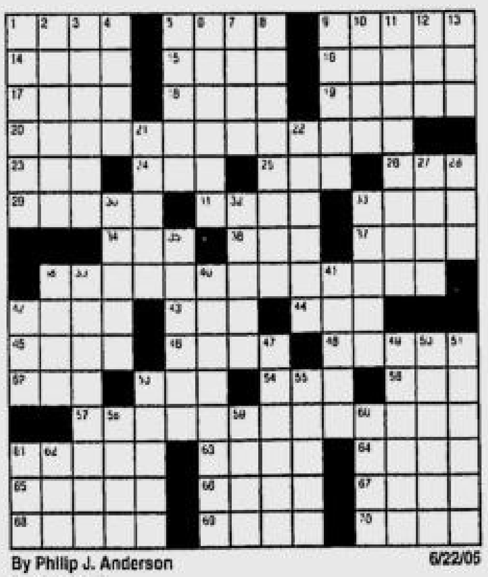
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Before and during each Full Moon our problems seem to increase. But afterward, they decrease! Therefore, be patient when dealing with partners and close friends now. (Just wait.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have a lot of energy to work hard at your job now. However, somebody might oppose your plans. If so, wait a few days, and then try again.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Parents must be extra-patient with children now. This Full Moon makes you want to seek out fun. Try to share good times and playful activities with children.

DAILY CROSSWORD

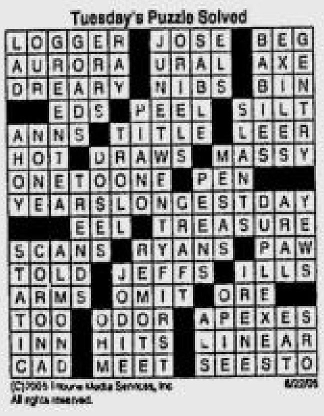
ACROSS
1 Metal waste
5 Type of dancer
9 Outshines
14 Starchy root
15 Indigo dye
16 Honey badger
17 Saragossa's river
18 Locate
19 Greek Muse
20 Not quite the NFL
23 "__ Miserables"
24 D.C. big shot
25 Peeve
26 Actor Jude
29 Fills to excess
31 Lapland nomad
33 "The Mod Squad" co-star Andrews
34 In medias __
36 Foot: suff.
37 Crude cross
38 Not quite NASCAR
42 Exclamation of resignation
43 Latin primer word
44 Human seat
45 Fork part
46 Look after
48 Bargains
52 Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"
53 Vert. bars on goods
54 Shell propeller
56 Also
57 Not quite the PGA
61 __ and drabs
63 Ruth of baseball
64 Give off
65 Ephesus location
66 Senator from Mississippi
67 Tiny amount
68 Destitute
69 Latin being
70 View quickly



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
6/22/05

DOWN
1 Robs
2 L.A. tar pits
3 Stanch
4 Thug
5 Faux pas
6 Fried rings
7 Cappelletti or Torretta
8 Veteran
9 Rest period
10 James __ Jones
11 Adult male horse
12 Vietnamese holiday
13 __-mo
21 Item in the plus column
22 Type of shower
27 In a tizzy
28 Unite
30 Irregular as if eaten away
32 Stage front
33 Nonsense
35 Garlic shrimp
38 Lost traction
39 Antipersonnel device
40 Friendly
41 Nucleus of personnel
42 Lunched
47 Second thoughts
49 Part of AEC
50 Vladimir Nabokov novel
51 Relent
53 Retract one's words
55 Long, narrow ridge
58 Footnote wd.
59 Western art colony
60 Pearls of wisdom
61 Cacophony
62 Shed output

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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T	O	L	D	■	J	E	F	F	S	■	I	L	L	S
A	R	M	S	■	O	M	I	T	■	O	R	E	■	■
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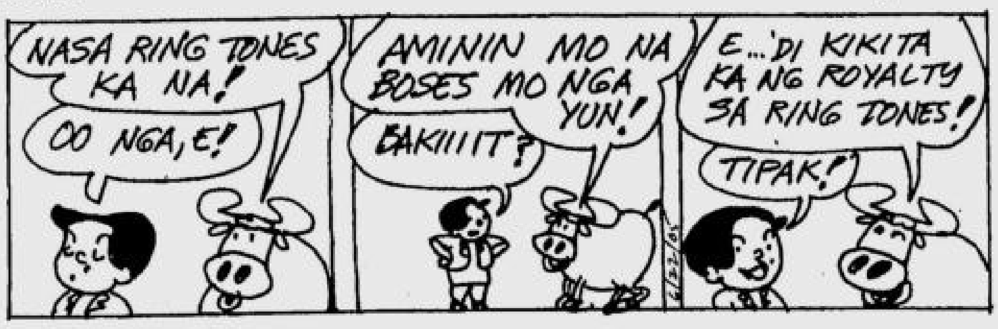
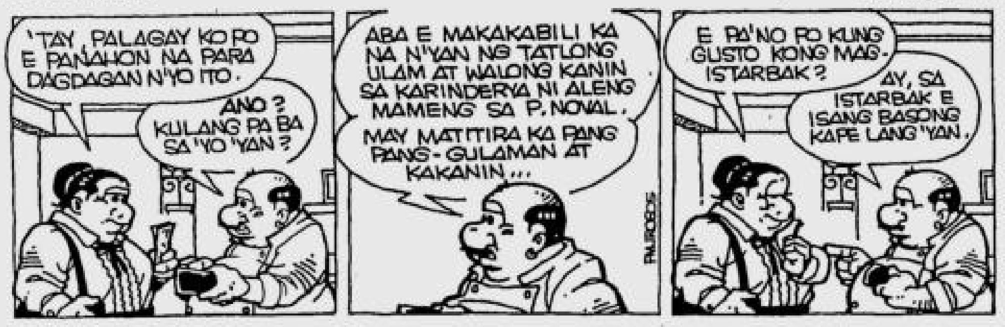
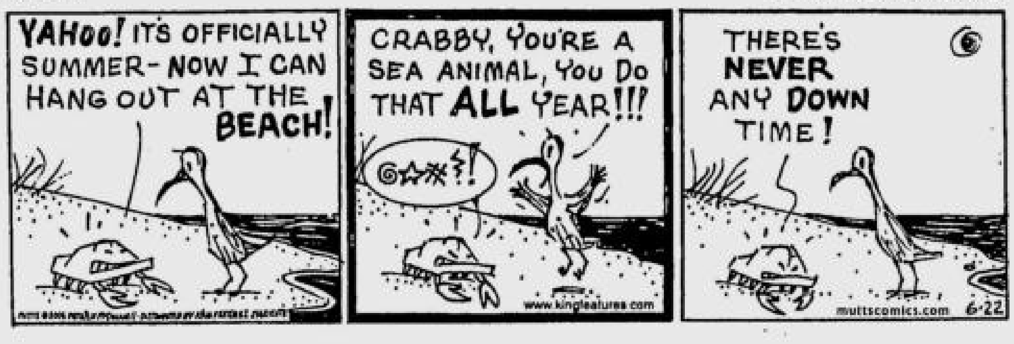
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NASA RING TONES KA NA!
OO NGA, E!
AMININ MO NA BOSES MO NGA YUN!
BAKIIIT?
E...'DI KIKITA KA NG ROYALTY SA RING TONES!
TIPAK!

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


'TAY, PALAGAY KO PO E PANAHON NA PARA DAGDAGAN N'YO ITO.
ANO? KULANG PA BA SA 'YO 'YAN?
ABA E MAKAKABILI KA NA N'YAN NG TATLONG ULAM AT WALONG KANIN SA KARINDERYA NI ALENG MAMENG SA P. NOVAL.
MAY MATITIRA KA PANG PANG-GULAMAN AT KAKANIN...
E PA'NO PO KUNG GUSTO KONG MAG-ISTARBAK?
AY, SA ISTARBAK E ISANG BASONG KAPE LANG 'YAN.

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL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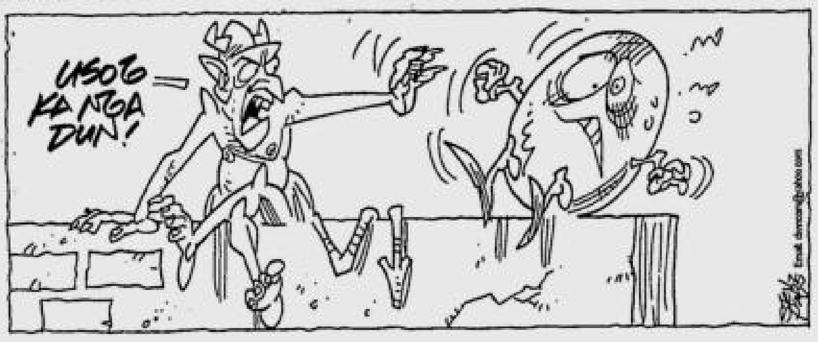
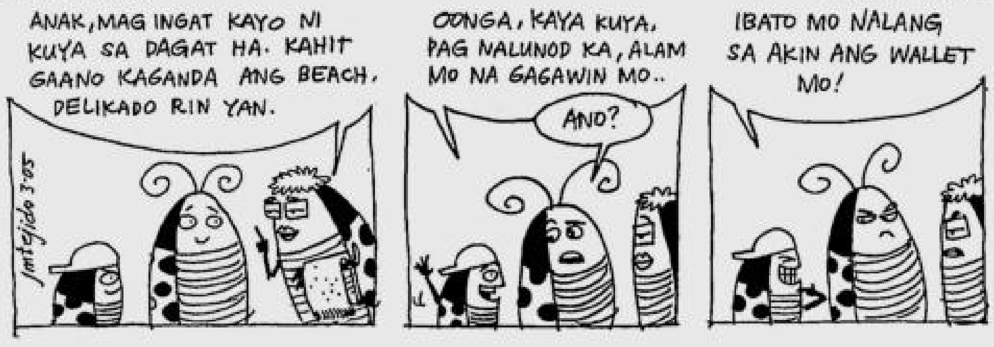
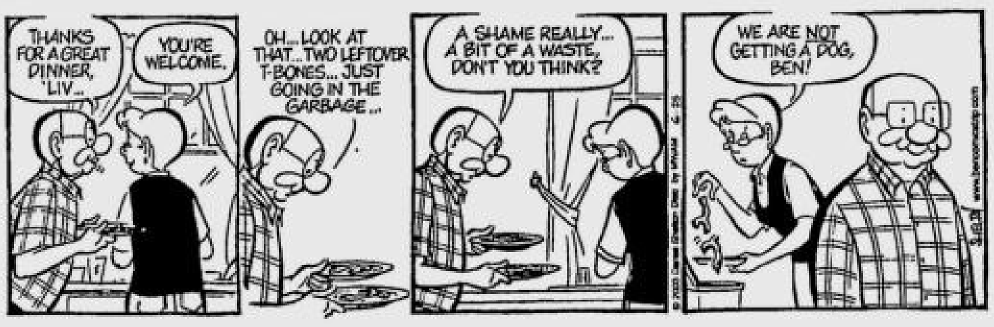

USOG KA NGA DUN!

ANG TOTOONG DAHILAN KUNG BAKIT NAHULOG SI HUMPTY DUMPTY

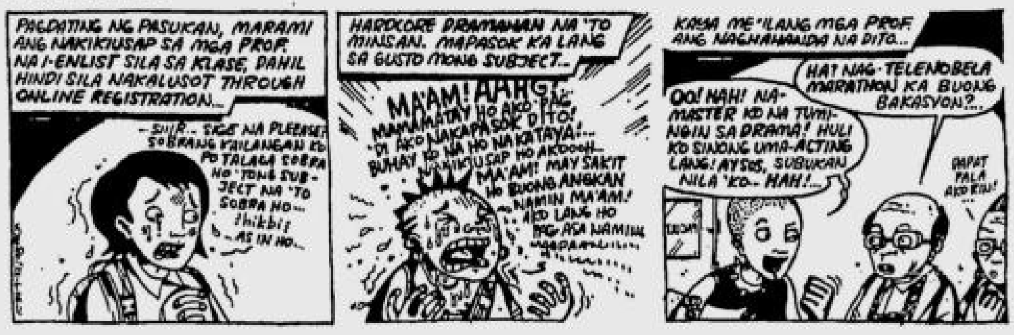
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANAK, MAG INGAT KAYO NI KUYA SA DAGAT HA. KAHIT GAANO KAGANDA ANG BEACH, DELIKADO RIN YAN.
OONGA, KAYA KUYA, PAG NALUNOD KA, ALAM MO NA GAGAWIN MO..
ANO?
IBATO MO NALANG SA AKIN ANG WALLET MO!

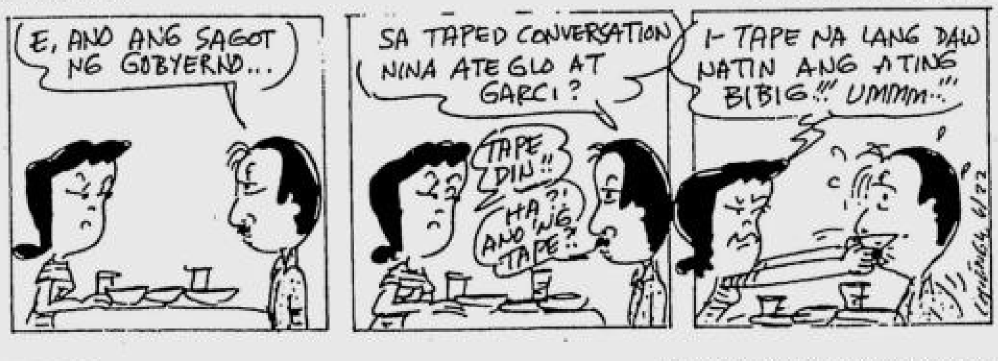
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANKS FOR A GREAT DINNER, 'LIV...
YOU'RE WELCOME.
OH... LOOK AT THAT... TWO LEFTOVER T-BONES... JUST GOING IN THE GARBAGE...
A SHAME REALLY... A BIT OF A WASTE, DON'T YOU THINK?
WE ARE NOT GETTING A DOG, BEN!

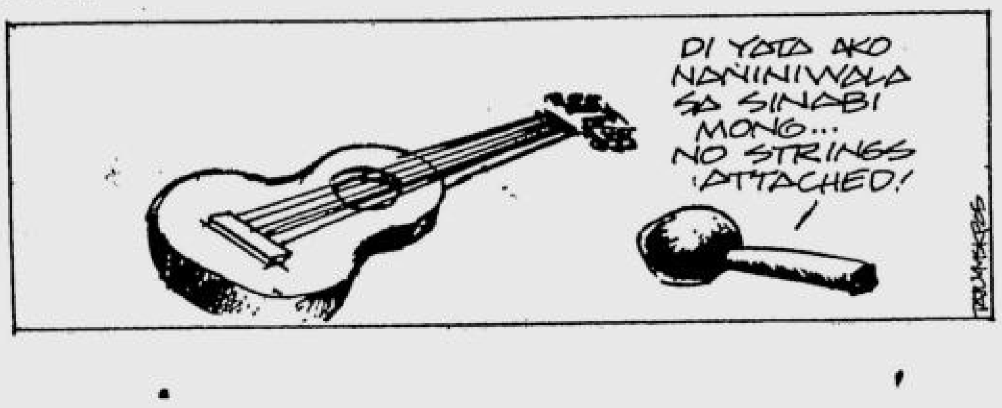
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


PAGDATING NG PASUKAN, MARAMI ANG NAKIKIUSAP SA MGA PROF. NA I-ENLIST SILA SA KLASE, DAHIL HINDI SILA NAKALUSOT THROUGH ONLINE REGISTRATION...
-SIIR.. SIGE NA PLEASE! SOBRANG KAILANGAN KO PO TALAGA SOBRA HO 'TONG SUBJECT NA 'TO SOBRA HO-- !hikbi! --AS IN HO--
HARDCORE DRAMAHAN NA 'TO MINSAN. MAPASOK KA LANG SA GUSTO MONG SUBJECT..
MA'AM! AAHG! MAMAMATAY HO AKO 'PAG 'DI AKO NAKAPASOK DITO! BUHAY KO NA HO NAKATAYA!... NAKIKIUSAP HO AKOOOH... MA'AM! MAY SAKIT HO BUONG ANGKAN NAMIN MA'AM! AKO LANG HO ANG PAG-ASA NAMIN...
KAYA ME'ILANG MGA PROF. ANG NAGHAHANDA NA DITO...
HA! NAG-TELENOBELA MARATHON KA BUONG BAKASYON?...
OO! HAH! NA-MASTER KO NA TUMINGIN SA DRAMA! HULI KO SINONG UMA-ACTING LANG! AYSUS, SUBUKAN NILA 'KO-- HAH!...
DAPAT PALA AKO RIN!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


E, ANO ANG SAGOT NG GOBYERNO...
SA TAPED CONVERSATION NINA ATE GLO AT GARCI?
TAPE DIN!!
HA?! ANO 'NG TAPE?!
I-TAPE NA LANG DAW NATIN ANG ATING BIBIG!!! UMMM..."

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI YATA AKO NANINIWALA SA SINABI MONG... NO STRINGS ATTACHED!

Operating the operatus, exciting to sedition and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What do you have to say about this latest controversy? What are some of the questions that remain?

Guest: For me, I want to know who was operating the operatus that taped the phone conversation!

(Who was operating the operatus? Why, the operator, of course!)

* * *

Host: What have you done in your school to avoid future cases of food poisoning?

Guest: In our school, we have prohibited, now no more ambulance vendors!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: How do you remain so cool despite your very busy schedule? Give us some tips!

Guest: I take all things at a time.

(Ah, so...)

* * *

Host: Why did your co-star refuse to do the scene in the cave?

Guest: I don't know—*baka may* claustrophobic *siya!*

(*Ganoon ba?*)

* * *

Host: You have successfully exported your products to the United States. How did you do it?

Guest: We were very careful, we made sure it confront to their US specifications.

(How—confrontational!)

* * *

Host: Which finalist in your opinion will win this contest, and why?

Guest: I think finalist No. 3 will win, for her very good!

(As for you, very bad!)

* * *

Host: What does your counseling service do that others don't?

Guest: We give solutions and advice that normal people don't see.

(Does that make you—abnormal?)

* * *

Host: You're very popular, and yet you're basically shy. How come?

(Uh, come again?)

* * *

Host: In your opinion, would it be legal to play the tapes in public fora?

Guest: I will not venture to answer that, but in my opinion, it will not be legal.

(—Make up your mind!)

* * *

Host: How soon do you think this controversy will be resolved? In how many days?

Guest: Not days—in mediately!

(Wow, that fast, huh?!)

* * *

Host: Why do you like (name of singer)?

Guest: *Boses niya*, belly powerful!

(Belly interesting...)

* * *

Host: If the support will finally be charged, what do you think the charge will be?

Guest: Definitely, with all the strong words he's been saying, he will be charged with exciting to sedition!

(How—exciting!)

'Globalflyer'

AT 11 p.m. on June 26, Discovery Channel telecasts a one-hour special, "Globalflyer: Nonstop Around the World," about the virgin Atlantic Globalflyer's 67-hour, nonstop flight around the globe. Entrepreneur and aviator **Steve Fossett** allows viewers to re-live the drama of that historic challenge firsthand.

Replays at 7 p.m. on June 29 and 11 a.m. on June 30.

John Legend

JOHN Legend's debut album, "Get Lifted," is an intimate view into the singer-songwriter's life. Some tracks are produced by Kanye West.

Tracks include the upbeat single "Used to Love U," the soothing ballad "Ordinary People," "Number One," "I Can Change," and "Live It Up."

Billboard on his album: "He has crafted an able neo-soul debut that will easily set him apart from his R&V counterparts."

Log on to www.sonymusic.ph for more information.

SHOW TIME

RICO J. PUNO

Rico J, Tosca in concert

RICO J. Puno and eldest daughter Tosca perform together at the Siete Pecados at The Westin Philippine Plaza today.

Tosca may not be as, uh, ribald as her controversial father, and she may not have branched out to other fields like TV or politics, but she can do a mean version of Rico J's signature song "Kapalaran."

Already, the 22-year-old management graduate of De La Salle St. Benilde has an album under Viva Records. She also performed before Filipinos overseas who were not at all surprised to find out she's Rico J's daughter.

Of course, father and daughter have excellent rapport.

"I feel safe when I perform with Dad," says Tosca.

It goes without saying that Rico J is always supportive of his daughter.

For ticket reservations, call Siete Pecados at 551-5555.

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1:30 / 4:10 / 6:00 / 9:30

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1:25 / 4:05 / 6:45 / 9:25

BATMAN BEGINS
12:20 / 1:00 / 3:10 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 6:40 / 8:50 / 9:30

HOTEL RWANDA
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

NASAAN KA MAN
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

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BATMAN BEGINS
1:40 / 4:30 / 7:20 / 10:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ NASAAN KA MAN
12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50

❷ BATMAN BEGINS
11:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15

❸ MR & MRS SMITH
12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10

❹ KILITI
11:40 / 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

❺ MONSTER IN LAW
12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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June 22, Wed. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS
4:45pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 7:35pm Shell vs Talk N Text

SOUTH BORDER CONCERT - INDEPENDENT
June 24, Friday, 8pm

NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES
June 25, Saturday, 1pm

June 26, Sun. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS
4:15pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 6:35pm Shell vs Talk N Text

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENTS

***So Shoe Me: The Mother Of All Shoe Festivals** extended until June 30 at the Upper Ground Floor of Ali Mall*

***Handyman Power Tools & Car Accessories Sale** ongoing until June 30 at the Third Floor of Farmers Plaza*

***Speedo Sale** with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until September 15 at the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall*

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CINEMA 4 HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO GALAXY GP

CINEMA 5 BATMAN BEGINS GP 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

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4 GOLD (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 GOLD (SDDS) A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) NASAAN KAMAN
8 MADAGASCAR
9 SIN CITY
10 NASAAN KAMAN

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

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4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

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3 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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3 (DOLBY) UNLEASHED

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2 NASAAN KAMAN
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ENTERTAINMENT

OPENING TODAY

From page A21

Monster-in-Law

Directed by Robert Luketic
Stars Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda, Michael Vartan, Wanda Sykes

SUMMARY: Beautiful Charlie has finally met the man of her dreams—Kevin. There's just one problem—his mother.

In her review for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Eleanor Ringel Gillespie wrote: "Fonda brings her movie-star presence and her well-honed professionalism to a hopeless bit of drivel that doesn't deserve her. And she does so without any help from the script, the director, Robert Luketic ('Legally Blonde'), or her co-stars — with the exception of the wonderful Wanda Sykes as her wisecracking personal assistant."

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Directed by Garth Jennings
Stars Martin Freeman, Mos Def, Sam Rockwell, Zooey Deschanel, Bill Nighy

SUMMARY: Earthman Arthur Dent is having a very bad day. His house is about to be bulldozed, he discovers that his best friend is an alien and, to top things off, Planet Earth is about to be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass. Dent's only chance for survival: Hitch a ride on a passing spacecraft.

In his April 22 review for The Guardian, Peter Bradshaw, wrote: "Based on Douglas Adams' 1970s radio masterpiece 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy,' which became a less good, but still decent TV serial and also a globally bestselling novel. Adams' inspired absorption of influences—Kubrick, Lucas, Python, Carroll—would not have been possible without the strength of his own insouciant comic originality. On his death in 2001 at the un-funnily early age of 49, we lost a playful virtuoso of ideas ... The film is no disgrace, and honors the Guide's gentle, low-tech BBC origins. But it doesn't do justice to the open-ended inventiveness of the original. The inevitable Anglo-American accommodations of casting have muddled its identity and the performances of the new American stars can be uneasy. It somehow seems heavier-footed and slower-moving than Adams's concept—the gravity is stronger... Martin Freeman (Tim from 'The Office') is inspired casting as Dent, and delivers exactly the right note of futile English sarcasm in the face of complete and utter planetary destruction. His best friend, the oddly named Ford Prefect, tips him off about what is about to happen; together they escape and hitchhike across the Milky Way, armed with their invaluable book, the Hitchhiker's Guide, voiced with lucid serenity by Stephen Fry."

MIGUEL Tanfelix

YUMI Loseo

POPOY Bardos

SAM Bumatay

IVAN Capili

TONI Aquino

KING Alcala

Children of the camera

From page A21

EISEN Bayubay

ELLA Guevara

"Kaluskos Musmos," while ex-presidential daughter and now congresswoman Imee Marcos spearheaded "Kulit Bulilit." ABS-CBN discovered a lot of potential stars via "Ang TV," including Jolina Magdangal and Kristine Hermosa.

Summer project

Arayata made it clear that "Bubble Gang Jr." was meant as a summer project for the network's child discoveries, particularly the finalists of its talent search, "StarStruck Kids," which wrapped up late last year.

"We observed that, between 7 and 9 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday, a lot of kids watched TV. So we decided to create a show for kids just for summer. If it clicked, we said, then we could extend its run as long as we aired earlier than 7 p.m., when most school kids went to bed," she said during a press dinner last Thursday.

The choice for the new gag show's inspiration and title was a no-brainer, Arayata added. After all, "Bubble Gang," anchored on the comedic geniuses of Michael V and Ogie Alcasid, had ruled the Friday prime time block for the last 10 years. Hence, some of its past and all-time favorite segments like "Dating Doon" and commercial spoofs were adapted for the kiddie version.

Uro dela Cruz directs both shows. Michael V, creative director of the original, wrote the spin-off's theme song. His and Ogie's appearances on "Bubble Gang Jr.'s" pilot episode were such a hit to viewers, Arayata said, that it inspired the production team to invite more adult guest stars. So far, they have had Ruby Rodriguez, whose daughter Toni is a cast member, Rainier Castillo and Jolina Magdangal.

Arayata pointed out, though, that without the much experienced and popular guests, "Bubble Gang Jr." could very well stand on the strength of juvenile cast—BJ Forbes, Ella Guevara, Miguel Tanfelix, Sam Bumatay, Yumi Loseo, Eisen Bayubay, King Alcala, Ivan Capili, Popoy Bardos and Toni Aquino.

Sam is the "StarStruck Kids'" Ultimate Survivor; Ella and Miguel were runners-up. Some of the finalists are already mainstays of other programs with conflicting taping schedules, so they're not on "Bubble Gang Jr."

The rest of the cast either auditioned or were handpicked. BJ, the bright boy named "Tolits" in a series of ads for a detergent brand, is a mainstay on "Eat Bulaga." Toni appears occasionally on the noontime show—her mom Ruby is one of the co-hosts. King has appeared in the movies "Walang Kapalit," "Abandonada," "Jeannie, Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?" "Death Row" and "Abakada Ina." Popoy's credentials include two TV commercials.

Arayata parried talk that the cast members were wanting in talent, and so the network was continuously conducting auditions and workshops. "[The truth is] we're building a pool of child talents. It's hard to immediately make good actors out of greenhorns," she explained. "It takes an hour for some of them to do one scene right."

From the talent pool, some are also sent for casting consideration in Channel 7's other shows. Popoy, for instance, has made it to "Sugo," the upcoming martial arts-inspired series starring Richard Gutierrez.

Element of fun

And although the ratings race is heating up between the two kiddie gag shows, Arayata maintained that the child actors were being kept as insulated from it as possible.

"We don't want their acting to be technical," added program manager Cheryl Ching-Sy. "The show should always have the element of fun."

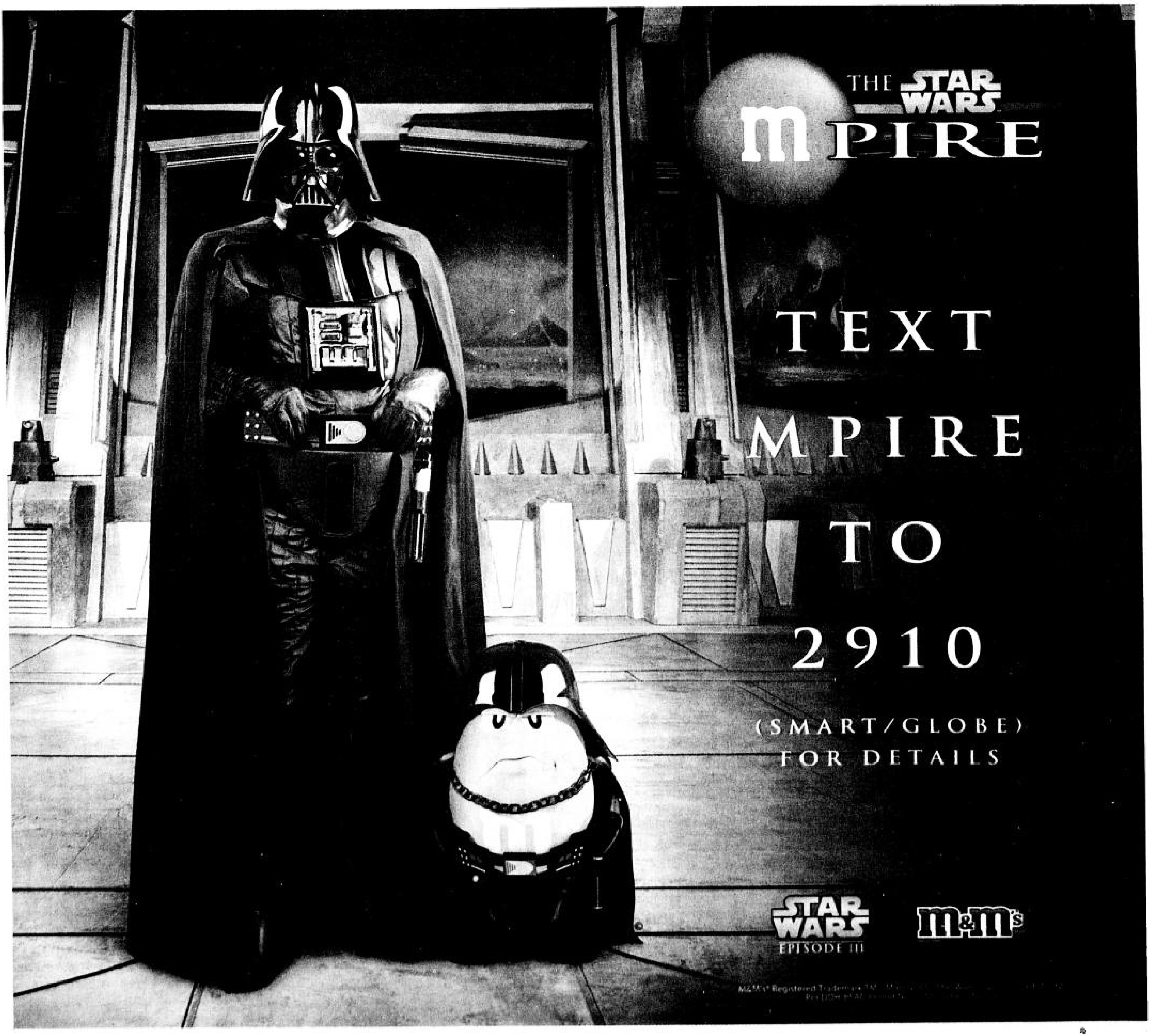
But, yes, the rating is definitely picking up, Arayata said. "We were ahead last week (Rainier was guest star)," she beamed, adding that marketing tools like the recently introduced SMS-based contest and the future membership club was sure to attract even more viewers.

Arayata is also proud of not being required to submit a copy of every episode to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. "When they previewed the pilot," she explained, "they didn't find anything objectionable. So we're only required to present an episode that's representative of the entire season."

"Wholesome" is the operative word, Arayata explained. She cited scenes showing kids acting like husband and wife, for instance, as no-nos.

And since they diligently look after the welfare of the children, she said, they faithfully comply with the guidelines of the Department of Labor and Employment.

"The children have an area on the set where they can study or do their homework, and another area where they can play," Ching-Sy said. "And," she added, "they have to be home by 8 p.m. DOLE does spot checks."



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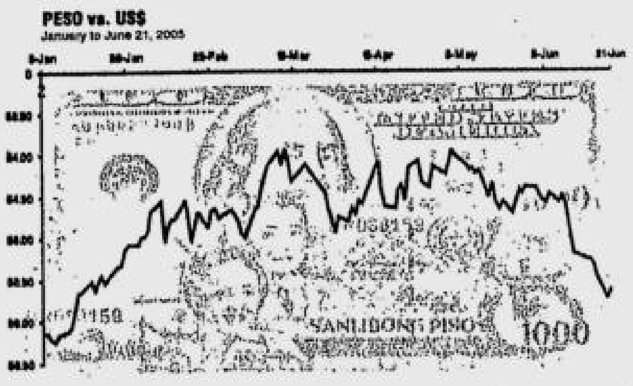
Peso closes firmer at 55.64 to a dollar


PESO vs. US$
January to June 21, 2005

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday threatened to break past the critical 56:$1 barrier before closing firmer at 55.64, spooked by continuing political uncertainties and skyrocketing oil prices.

But without the political noise that is pushing up the risk premium, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said the local currency should be trading back to the 54:$1 levels or where it was before all the tension started.

Yesterday, the peso hit an intra-day low of 55.94 and an intra-day high of 55.58 to the dollar at the Philippine Dealing System. At the end of the day, it came out stronger compared to Monday's closing rate of 55.745 to the dollar.

Some traders said they believed the BSP had sold dollars at the spot market yesterday to curb a freefall past 56 to the dollar, in turn allowing the peso to regain some lost ground.

Tetangco declined to comment on this. "We're watching the peso and movements on the exchange rate," he said. "If it's just based on macroeconomic fundamentals. We should be seeing a better exchange rate for the peso."

The 56:$1 barrier is seen as critical because it is the threshold at which most market participants expect the BSP to intervene using monetary tightening *(See related story)*.

Although the peso has given up most of its gains since foreign portfolio capital poured into the Philippines this year, it is still stronger than the end-2004 rate of 56.15 to the US dollar.

From the beginning of the year till end-May, the peso has appreciated by about 3.4 percent alongside the weakening of the US dollar, until the political noise triggered by harsh corruption accusations against the President

PESO/B7

Hike in BSP rates seen

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas will be prompted to raise interest rates if the looming political tension drags down the peso beyond 56 against the US dollar, foreign exchange traders said yesterday.

Six of seven forex traders polled by the INQUIRER yesterday said the BSP would be under pressure to mop up liquidity through an increase in interest rates soon to curb the peso freefall.

As of yesterday, the peso was only a hairline away from the critical 56:$1 barrier, hit by a double whammy from increasing political tension and surging crude oil prices.

But BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said there was still no need to tighten liquidity at this point.

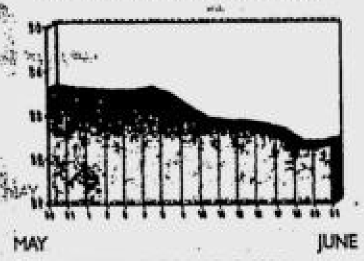
"We keep on saying that our decision to tighten monetary policy is based on whether second-round (inflationary) effect has kicked in, demand pressures begin to mount and foreign exchange volatility has taken place," Guinigundo said.

"On the basis of these three (factors), there's

HIKE/B7

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES


MAY
JUNE

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.640 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 21, 2005

¥ 109.46 = $ 1

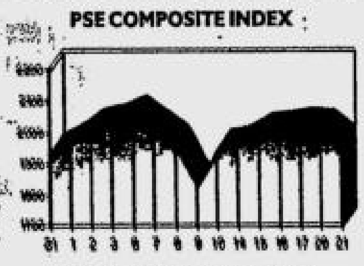
As of 5 p.m., June 21, 2005

GOLD: $437.60-438.10

per ounce Hong Kong, June 21, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 2.53% lower

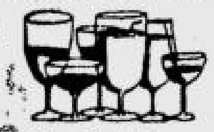
SHARE prices closed sharply lower yesterday, falling 2.53 percent on profit-taking as political concerns combined with rising oil prices to knock sentiment and the local currency, dealers said.

They said the market was distinctly nervous ahead of the start of congressional hearings into opposition allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated to win last year's presidential elections.

SHARES/B7

WHAT'S INSIDE

Angara eyes bill to assist troubled pre-need firms /B2



Cocktales /B3
Oil prices ease below $59; market waits /B7

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0843 Series of 2005.

Angara eyes bill to assist troubled pre-need companies

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SEN. EDGARDO Angara, chair of the committee on banks and financial institutions, is set to file a bill that will allow government to take over troubled pre-need firms.

Angara told the INQUIRER at the sidelines of the Philippine Pre-Need Industry forum at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center yesterday that the bill he was planning to file would allow troubled pre-need firms to access financial aid and tax relief, but at a stiff price.

The tradeoff is that shareholders of the company would have to lose ownership of the pre-need firm once they avail themselves of the aid, Angara said.

Angara said he was planning to file the bill when Congress resumes on July 24.

The Philippine pre-need industry has been rocked by concerns mainly from plan holders who are now doubting the ability of some companies to pay their liabilities.

Plan holders have remained watchful over the fate of College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP), the country's biggest education plan provider, after its license to sell was suspended in 2004 due to financial problems.

Another case was Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI), a company that used to sell open-ended plans or those that promised to pay tuition fees regardless of the rate, after it recently sought relief from local courts to suspend payments and undergo rehabilitation.

In 2002, the SEC had ordered pre-need firms to stop selling open-ended plans.

"Apart from the pre-need code, we need a special legislation that will extend tax relief and liquidity assistance and allow plan holders and stakeholders to come to an agreement as to the value of open-ended plans," he said.

Angara said that one of the potential sources of financial assistance could be taxes on text messaging and "sin taxes" or those levied on cigarettes.

Tampakan mining project gets backing

SAGITTARIUS Mines Inc. (SMI) yesterday announced that all its host communities achieved consensus to support the Tampakan copper-gold project in southern Mindanao.

SMI said it formalized its latest principal agreement with the municipality of Kiblawan last June 18 in a special ceremony during the 39th anniversary celebration of the municipality. With the signing, it said all the host communities were now in consensus to support the Tampakan project under SMI.

The agreement was signed by Kiblawan Mayor Jaime Caminero and SMI project manager Alan Buenavista, and witnessed by Davao del Sur board member Carlito Giducos (representing Gov. Benjamin Bautista), Vice Mayor Marlon Brabat and Mines and Geosciences Bureau regional director Jose Madrona.

SMI said the agreement had been preceded by a series of consultations with the residents of Kiblawan, the religious sector, barangay and municipal officials and various people's and non-government organizations.

The municipality of Kiblawan and the Salnaong tribal community in Columbio were the last host communities to sign principal agreements. Salnaong, after raising concerns about the Tampakan project with WMC Western Mining Corp. several years ago, gave the project the green light with SMI as the new proponent by signing the tribal agreement in October 2004.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 21, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	2,922,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52	50	50	652,200
China Banking Corp.	770	770	770	770	30
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	910,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51	49	49	211,700
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	31,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	29.5	30	942,200
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	85	85	85	85	200
Philippine National Bank	42	42	41.5	42	195,400
Philippine Trust Co.	38	38	38	38	38,100
Security Bank Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	43,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	29	28.5	28.5	35,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2630	2650	2630	2650	1,850
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1780	1795	1780	1795	3,190
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	9,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,525,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	830	810	810	68,480
Ipeople Inc.	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	22,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	31,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,595,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	25,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1605	1610	1605	1610	171,600
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	590,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.017	13,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	19,900
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.75	655,200
Manila Water Co., Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	4,176,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	1,562,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	16,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.9	721,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	200,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	960,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	15,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	36,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	31.5	30.5	31	230,600
Pancake House Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	80,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	140,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	59	58.5	59	89,700
San Miguel Corp. B	91.5	92	91	92	246,400
Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	10,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	49,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	350	350	325	330	142,870
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.9	1,200,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	6,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.96	1.96	45,000
APC Group, Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	15,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.08	13,196,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,810,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.65	1,320,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	401,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8	7.8	8	352,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48	48	47	47	337,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,120,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4	4	3.75	3.75	1,579,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.4	1,025,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	12,420,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	196,190
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	310,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	240,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	4,685,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Fairmont Holdings, Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.12	1,155,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	130,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	103,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	5,000
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	1,190
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8	7.5	7.7	11,288,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,890,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	3,510,000
E/B Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	15,290,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.44	2,321,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.3	2.2	2.3	60,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	1,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	65,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.7	3,124,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc.B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	32,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6	5.6	5.6	1,550,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	2,470,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.37	3,450,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	18,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	73,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	1,200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.06	1,614,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	32	32	31.5	31.5	11,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	270,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	211,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.14	1,560,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	70,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. disclosed that Nerissa Ramos disposed of 500 shares worth P3,255 on June 20, leaving her with no beneficially owned share.

***

ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting which had been initially set for June 28.

***

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. announced that from June 13 to 17, 31,116 shares had been fully paid for under its stock option plan, bringing the number of its treasury shares to 28,751,703.

***

PRUDENTIAL Bank extended the contractual employment of the following officers until Dec. 31: A. Benedicto Santos, Lauro Jocson, Manolo Hilario and Felipe Gella.

***

SEAFRONT Resources Corp. elected as directors Teodoro Peña, Helen Dee, Nicasio Alcantara, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Rizalino Navarro, Albert Yuchengco, Milagros Reyes, Susanne Santos and Yvonne Yuchengco. It also reappointed SGV & Co. as external auditor. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 21, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823316	1.000000	55.6360
Japan	Yen	0.007531	0.009147	0.5089
United Kingdom	Pound	1.502058	1.824400	101.5023
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105890	0.128614	7.1556
Switzerland	Franc	0.647465	0.786411	43.7528
Canada	Dollar	0.666437	0.809454	45.0348
Singapore	Dollar	0.491826	0.597372	33.2354
Australia	Dollar	0.638824	0.775916	43.1689
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.183921	2.652590	147.5795
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219551	0.266667	14.8363
Brunei	Dollar	0.490361	0.595593	33.1364
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020032	0.024331	1.3537
UAE	Dirham	0.224172	0.272279	15.1485
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.214600	67.5756
Argentina	Peso	0.286870	0.348432	19.3854
Brazil	Real	0.345351	0.419463	23.3372
Denmark	Kroner	0.134300	0.163121	9.0754
India	Rupee	0.018914	0.022973	1.2781
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216691	0.263193	14.6430
Mexico	New Peso	0.076107	0.092439	5.1429
New Zealand	Dollar	0.588503	0.714796	39.7684
Norway	Kroner	0.127164	0.154454	8.5932
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013791	0.016750	0.9319
South Africa	Rand	0.123019	0.149419	8.3131
Korea	Won	0.000815	0.000990	0.0551
Sweden	Kroner	0.108253	0.131484	7.3152
Syria	Pound	0.015860	0.019264	1.0718
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026304	0.031949	1.7775
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000384	0.000466	0.0259

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REFRIGERATION PRODUCTS
REFRIGERATION SYSTEM
REFRIGERATION VALVES
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SANDWICH PANELS
SCALE
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SEALERS
SHRINK PACKAGING EQUIPMENT
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BAKERY RAW MATERIALS
BAKING INGREDIENTS
BELGIAN CHOCOLATES
BEVERAGES
BOTTLED SAUCES
C
CARAGEENAN
CHARCOAL STOVE & OVEN
CHEMICALS
COFFEE BREWING MACHINES
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FOOD ADDITIVES AND INGREDIENTS
FOOD AND BEVERAGE
FOOD CARTS
FOOD COLORINGS
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FOOD SAFETY
FOOD SOLUTIONS
FOOD SPICES
FOOD SUPPLEMENTS
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M
MARINE PRODUCTS
MEAT PRODUCTS
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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

GSIS president Winston Garcia has threatened to file criminal charges against the Gos of Equitable PCIBank, accusing the family of "deceitful" and "highly irregular" corporate maneuverings in disenfranchising one of the two directors of the Government Service Insurance System from the bank board.

Garcia yesterday sent a harshly worded ultimatum to Equitable PCIBank chair Antonio Go, after a similar letter he sent to Go last year was ignored.

Garcia sent the new letter after it was reported that that the Go family was again set to ignore a Bangko Sentral opinion that the 10-percent block being held by an Equitable PCIBank subsidiary be voted pro rata among the major shareholders in next month's meeting, instead of being unilaterally voted for the Go family.

Despite the Bangko Sentral position and a restraining order from the court, the Gos went on last year to vote the 10-percent block, and, in the process, took away one of the two GSIS board seats.

"When the leadership of the Equitable Bank inveigled the SSS and the GSIS to join in the acquisition of PCI Bank, it was assumed that the government will have voting powers in proportion to their shareholdings," Garcia wrote.

"When the price of your shares dropped, both the SSS and GSIS were even impelled [during the Erap administration] to buy additional shares to lower their average buying price."

"To add insult to injury, you are now [even] diminishing the number of directors that the government institutions could elect to the Equitable PCIBank board," Garcia said. "You have, in effect, used government property for your own benefit and interest."

With the disenfranchisement, GSIS has been left with one director, Reynaldo Palmiery, in the Equitable PCIBank board, after the bank management downgraded the second GSIS nominee, Gilbert Lorenzo, to a "non-voting representative."

"This cruel hoax upon the government cannot be perpetrated with impunity," Garcia warned.

Despite all the negative publicity, the Gos and Equitable PCIBank have maintained a no-comment policy on the boardroom row, preferring to let sympathetic columnists and PR consultants defend their position.

Rotarian pledge wins jail pass

FORMER Tourism Secretary Vicente "Vince" Carlos has been freed from his San Francisco detention after promising a California judge he would settle his Las Vegas gambling debts. This was the version of Carlos' classmates about the casino-related travails of the Ramos-era Cabinet official.

Carlos was detained as soon as he landed at the San Francisco International Airport on June 10, according to an e-mail from his Ateneo classmate Pete Lacaba, and was kept in detention until June 13, a Monday, when he was presented before a judge, "at which time he arranged [for] payment of the obligation."

"He explained that what the Las Vegas casinos are after was [the] interest on some debts that he had already paid," according to the purported e-mail message that Carlos, a lawyer, sent to his classmates in Ateneo de Manila University.

"He was under the impression that the interest had either been waived or had been paid by a friend of his."

Carlos, who has not set foot on the United States for some time, was traveling with his wife Tina to attend a Rotary International convention in Chicago when his name cropped up in the immigration red flag list during his San Francisco stopover.

According to the e-mail message, Carlos after his release eventually proceeded to Chicago for the Rotary convention, where he represented the Philippines as delegation head, by virtue of his being a former district governor.

Lacaba, a magazine editor, also took the occasion to clarify that he was not one of the classmates—and neither was he aware of any classmate—who had reportedly bailed out Carlos from similar financial predicaments in the past.

Helicopter hostage

THE HELICOPTER of Francisco "Paqui" Ortigas III is being padlocked in a Manila airport hangar because the billionaire heir has piled

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DOF to limit tax deductions of economic zone locators

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has approved three revenue regulations that will limit the allowable tax deductions of economic zone locators.

The move was aimed at plugging suspected revenue losses from excessive claims of deductions by these firms.

The three revenue regulations, which the Bureau of Internal Revenue is expected to issue in the next few days, will cover firms located in Subic Bay Freeport, those registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), and locators in the Cagayan and Zamboanga ecozones.

Economic zone locators are currently only imposed a 5-percent gross income tax in lieu of all other taxes, as an incentive for their investments in the country.

But the DOF said the definition of the term "gross income" needed to be clarified, as many locators claimed too many expenses to reduce their gross income, and consequently, their tax liabilities.

The three revenue regulations will no longer allow the deduction of administrative expenses from gross income, which include expenses for advertising, administrative salaries, marketing, travel, sales salaries and distribution.

The three revenue regulations will supersede some of the provisions of Revenue Regulation No. 2-2005, which earlier provided the guidelines for imposing taxes on all economic zone locators.

"While RR2-2005 had good intentions to consolidate under one set of rules all revenue regulations pertaining to special economic zones, its issuance deeply concerned the economic zone authorities as well as their locators," the DOF said in an internal memo.

The DOF said that technically, the term "gross income" should be arrived at by deducting only direct business costs, and not administrative costs.

While putting some limits on the allowable tax deductions for economic zone locators, the three revenue regulations will allow the deduction of the cost of depreciation of buildings that are directly used in the production of goods or services.

Currently, the cost of depreciation of buildings is not allowed to be deducted from a locator's taxable income.

Warrant sought for German partners of posh auto firm

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A LOCAL distributor of German luxury cars has urged authorities to seek the help of the International Police to arrest the executives of Audi AG allegedly for "defrauding" the former out of some P3 billion in investments.

Paul Y. Rodriguez, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Auto Prominence Corp., yesterday said in a briefing that APC is demanding a compensation package of 50 million euros or about P3 billion after Audi AG "arbitrarily and without due process" terminated their partnership.

Rodriguez said that in 1998, APC signed with Audi AG an assembly license, technical assistance and parts supply agreement to develop the Audi brand in the Philippine market.

Aside from that, he said APC and Audi signed distributorship and license fee agreements, "making us the sole and exclusive importer and seller of Audi products in the country."

However, the executive said, Audi informed APC in September 2004 that the agreements were terminated.

"They did not even give us the six-month (grace period) nor did they explain why," Rodriguez said. "When I called their regional office in Singapore, I was simply told that they did not like us."

Ernesto V. Tan, APC financial advisor, said APC had charged Audi officials with estafa, for which the Regional Trial Court of Alaminos in Pangasinan issued a warrant of arrest last June 9.

Named in the warrant were members of the Audi board of management-Martin Winterkorn, Horst Neumann, Andreas Schleef, Erich Schmitt, Rupert Stadler, Jochem Heizmann and Ralph Weyler.

Also named was Sunil Kanul, who was Audi's area sales manager for Southeast Asia.

"APC secured registration for incentives under the governments automotive development program for which it posted a $4.12-million performance bond; invested at least $50 million in an assembly plant in Pangasinan; and paid Audi P50 million in license fee," Tan said. "(But) we got nothing from their side. They never invested a single centavo to develop Audi products on our soil."

Tan said Audi never even planned to make the country part of their production network.

"Last year, they told us unceremoniously that we will not be part of their Southeast Asian strategy," Tan said.

The financial advisor explained that Audi's strategy in the region was to actually produce one model in each country where they are present, and then build an interdependent production network.

Tan said APC was amenable to an amicable settlement of 30 million euros, but that Audi only offered to buy APC's inventory and signages.

"Audi just took advantage of our car development program license and investments to penetrate the Philippine market without any centavo of their own investment," he said. "They just wanted a free ride."

The APC officials said that as far as they were concerned, Audi's termination of their contracts was invalid.

"We are still the sole Audi distributor, until our contracts expire in 2008," they said.

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PCA needs ₱2B to raise yield of coco farms

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINE Coconut Authority would need to raise P2 billion in additional funds to increase the yield of coconut oil, the country's largest agriculture export.

The lack of budgetary support to replace some 40 million senile coconut oil trees nationwide would require the attached agency of the Department of Agriculture to look for other alternative means of financing, said Jesus Emmanuel Paras, newly installed PCA administrator.

Paras in an interview yesterday said that this might be the only way to stop the country's declining production of coconut oil. This year, production has been estimated to decrease by 3 percent to 930,000 metric tons (in copra terms) as compared to last year's 958,000 metric tons.

"The last nationwide fertilization program for coconut farms was held way back in 1998 to year 2000," Paras said, adding that the program had the support of the World Bank. "Since then, there have been no similar programs ... the main reason for the decline."

The decline in local production has significantly affected the country's export volumes. In the period of January to April, Philippine exports of coconut oil (CNO), has gone down to 306,460 metric tons as against the 317, 471 metric tons exported during the same period last year.

Although world prices are high and the average price is at $600 per metric ton, as compared to the average price of $547 per metric ton in year 2004, Philippine exporters still cannot increase deliveries with the limited available supply, Paras said.

The country remains the largest exporter of coconut oil to the United States and Europe. China is another export market for coconut oil and other coconut by-products.

Paras said that to sustain and even increase the country's coconut oil exports, the country needs to address the production shortfall by implementing a three-year fertilization project.

The PCA and small coconut farmers might not be able to afford the cost of the project.

The PCA has estimated that the fertilization program would cost about P2,100 a hectare a year, or P6,300/ha for the entire three-year period.

The agency said there are about 750,000 hectares of coconut farmlands—out of the country's total coconut area of 3.1 million hectares—that are "nutrient-deficient" and in need of fertilization.

"Without these fertilization and replanting projects, coconut output will decline by 25 percent in two years," he said.

JP Morgan gets nod to reopen PSE seat in July

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved the application of US-based firm JP Morgan Securities (Philippines) to reopen its brokerage seat in the local bourse, PSE president Francis Lim said.

JP Morgan will open its seat in the stock market after two years of hibernation.

Lim said the PSE approved the move last week.

Roberto Panlilio, chair of JP Morgan Philippines, told the INQUIRER that the firm sees a big potential in the country, taking into account the recent appetite for initial public offerings.

According to sources, JP Morgan hopes to relaunch its PSE seat in July as soon as it secures the regulator's approval.

JP Morgan suspended its brokerage activities in April 2003 after a number of brokers, both foreign and local, became dormant due to anemic volumes in the market.

Lim said JP Morgan's renewed interest is a welcome development for the exchange.

JP Morgan in the Philippines is part of the JP Morgan Chase group of New York, which has assets of approximately $1.1 trillion and operations in more than 50 countries.

The firm is a leader in investment banking, financial services for consumers and businesses, financial transaction processing, asset and wealth management and private equity.

Also, power generation firm First Generation Holdings and Producers Rural Bank of Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija are keen on making their debut in the local stock market.

First Gen has expressed its interest to list at the stock market this year and has tapped investment banks UBS, CLSA, BDO Capital and ATR Kim Eng as underwriters. First Gen hopes to offer between 20 and 40 percent of new and previously-owned shares worth an estimated $300 million.

First Gen is the holding company of the Lopez Group for power and energy-related businesses which controls some 1,725 megawatts of gross generation capacity.

In its management report, the PSE also said it was in contact with several companies that were also keen on holding their respective maiden offerings. These included thrift bank Philippine Business Bank, juice maker Zesto Corp., coffee shop operator Figaro and call center group eTelecare.

The PSE also said it would set meetings with other companies to discuss possible public offerings. These are Internet company Chikka.Com, National Bookstore, oil firm Flying V, beauty care products maker Splash, Pascual Laboratories, and PNOC Energy Development Corp.

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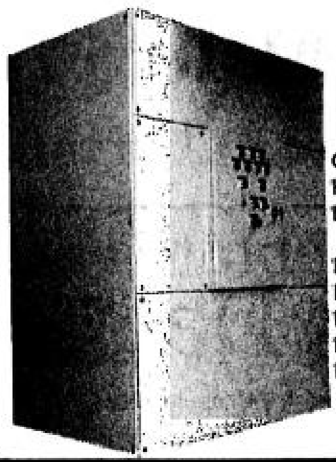
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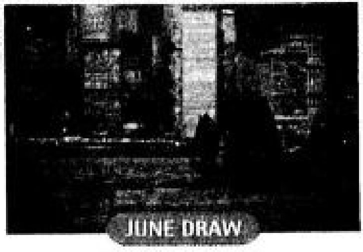
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Market pushes rates up; 7-year T-bond hits 11.42%

Market behavior still on the side of caution as investors air concern over political events

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COST of the government's seven-year borrowing inched up slightly to 11.419 percent yesterday, thus continuing the upward trend in interest rates that has been sparked by noise in the political scene.

The new 11.419 percent rate for the seven-year Treasury bond was higher by 4.7 basis points compared with the 11.372 percent average rate recorded during the debt instrument's auction last month.

According to Eduardo Mendiola, the country's deputy treasurer, the slight upward movement was considered tolerable, especially since the seven-year T-bond was already trading at a slightly higher average rate in the secondary market.

He said the market was behaving cautiously amid concerns over events in the political scene. But he said that appetite for government securities has remained. He cited the P5.84 billion worth of bids raised in yesterday's auction for the seven-year T-bond, which was higher than the government's debt offering of only P4 billion.

"An increase of 4.7 basis points was not really significant, and was more of a random movement. The volume of bids was thinner than before, but the market is still interested in government securities," he said in a press briefing after yesterday's auction.

The slight increase in the interest rate for the seven-year T-bond followed the rise in interest rates for short-term government securities last Monday. The benchmark 91-day Treasury bill rate inched up by 9.9 basis points from a week ago to 5.883 percent. The 182-day T-bill rate rose by 14.3 basis points to 6.927 percent.

The Treasury was forced to reject all bids for the 364-day T-bill, saying banks were asking for unreasonably high interest rates.

Court upholds SEC decision to fold Lifetime back to Pacific

THE MAKATI Regional Trial Court has upheld the decision of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to fold the pre-need firm Lifetime Plans Inc. (LPI) back to its parent firm Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI).

Plan holders of the Yuchengco-owned PPI have also supported the SEC's position that LPI should be folded back into PPI.

PPI in a statement said that it would "seek a reconsideration of the rehabilitation court's order."

LPI in a statement said that it regretted the June 9 court ruling, but stressed that the 400,000 LPI plan holders would continue to receive their benefits. LPI even called on its clients to update their premiums to prevent the lapse of their policies.

LPI spokesperson Atty. Samuel V. Torres said, "there's no need for LPI plan holders to worry because, while PPI has a pending petition for rehabilitation, the court's stay order does not cover LPI's more than 400,000 planholders."

The court order was issued following a comment by the SEC that it had already cancelled the certificate of incorporation of LPI. The SEC stated that since LPI has become non-existent, PPI now holds all assets of LPI.

The SEC then asked the rehabilitation court to dismiss the PPI petition for rehabilitation since, according to SEC, it is now moot and academic. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Cocktales

From page B3

up 31 months in unpaid hangar fees, according to the hangar owner Asian Aerospace.

Asian Aerospace president/CEO Peter Rodriguez said the Ortigas helicopter, an MD 500E, owed his company more than P1.6 million as of this month.

Contrary to a Monday report here, only one helicopter was involved and, more important, Asian Aerospace itself is in the pink of financial health, has no past-due accounts with banks, and has been spared from the financial woes of Rodriguez's Proton venture.

Ortigas lawyer Antonio Pastelero said his client is entitled to two years worth of free hangar use with Asian Aerospace, but Rodriguez said that that option could not be extended to Ortigas since he acquired the aircraft directly from MD Helicopter Inc., and not through Asian Aerospace, its Philippine representative.

Ortigas, who is married to a Madrigal, reportedly paid $1.11 million for the McDonnell Douglas helicopter which he himself pilots.

Money-go-round

- TO ensure that at least two of their nominees would be accepted, the Government Service Insurance System is nominating five representatives for the election of directors of Equitable PCIBank in next month's stockholders' meeting.

The Social Security System is following a similar tack, per instruction of SSS president Corazon dela Paz before she left on yet another foreign trip.

- CARMELO Bautista has been elected president of Philippine Bank of Communications.

Heard through the grapevine

TERRY'S, arguably the best Spanish deli-bistro in town, was red-faced informing guests who tried paying their Father's Day lunch with BPI Mastercard that it does not accept the credit card, despite BPI chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II being one of the VIP diners that Sunday.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Peugeot celebrated Father's Day

AutoFrance Philippines, Inc. (AFPI), exclusive distributor of Peugeot in the country celebrated Father's Day at Eastwood City last June 18. Peugeot treated the crowd with a European Car Exhibit featuring 206cc, 307, and 807. A test-drive was also conducted during the 3-day display from June 17 to 19. For inquiries, you may visit Lion Motors, Inc. authorized dealer of AFPI located at 315 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or call (632) 8942910; (632)8402736.

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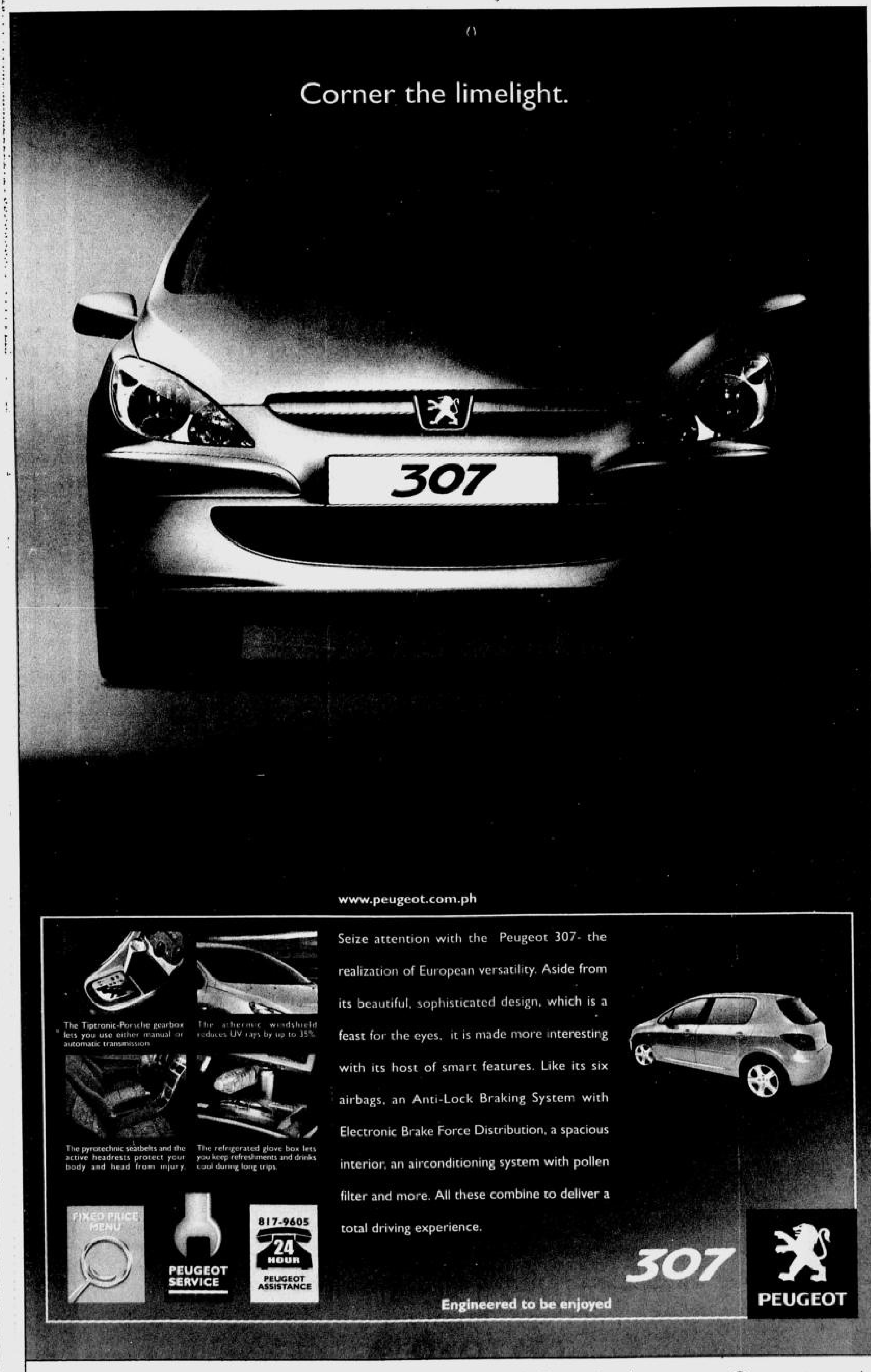

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Oil prices ease below $59; market waits

SINGAPORE—Oil prices eased back below $59 a barrel in Asian trade Tuesday after hitting record highs in New York as the market paused for breath ahead of another likely push towards $60, dealers said.

The beginning of the week saw prices surge past $59 for the first time, hitting a high of $59.52 in New York, as speculators seized upon concerns about possible energy shortages going into the northern hemisphere winter later this year.

In one month, prices have risen by more than 27 percent in New York and 22 percent in London and are up 40 percent since the start of 2005.

Daniel Hynes, a commodities analyst with ANZ bank in Melbourne, Australia, said the factors that had driven up prices remained in play despite the easing in Asian trade on Tuesday.

"I think we are seeing the market take a bit of a breather. It just seems to be balking at that $60-mark, which is quite expected because it's a psychological barrier," Hynes said.

"I certainly think everything is still pointing towards a continuation of this upward trend."

Hynes said the New York contract would likely break through $60 in US trade, with Wednesday's weekly report of US inventory levels to have an influence.

"The US Energy Department's data will be a key point which could tip it either way but it would have to be a fairly bearish report (showing stocks had increased) to see oil ease back from current rises," he said.

Hynes pointed out that US crude inventories are at the top end of the average over the past 15 years.

However, the market is focused on a lack of global refining capacity that could see insufficient crude being turned into heating fuel and other petroleum products such as petrol and diesel.

Analysts say the market is already focused on this possible lack of heating fuel for the northern hemisphere winter.

"The main reasons for the continued momentum remain the same as they have been throughout the strong push up over the past month—the perception of a tight balance for the back-end of this year in a market with limited slack," US-based Barclays Capital analyst Kevin Norrish said.

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) president Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah said Monday he would hold talks on hiking output by an additional 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) if prices remained high for the rest of this week.

"If prices continue to the end of this week at the same level, I will start consulting my colleagues to release the 500,000 barrels," Sheikh Ahmad told reporters.

Opec's 11 members last week agreed to raise the group's production ceiling by 500,000 bpd on July 1 and said they might repeat the move by September.

However, the move was largely seen as a symbolic gesture because the cartel is already pumping more oil than its current official ceiling of 27.5 million bpd.

AFP

Hike in BSP rates seen

From page B1

no compelling evidence for us to change monetary policy at this point, but we keep on monitoring key indicators that will really tell us whether it's time to move the rates or not. The Monetary Board is watchful of the situation and prepared to take action as necessary," he said.

One trader with a local commercial bank said the BSP might increase its overnight rate by as much as 50 basis points if the peso would fall past 56:$1. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

"It will send a signal to the market, because if it depreciates past 56, it will be a freefall," the trader said.

Another trader with a foreign bank said that with the sharp peso depreciation in recent days, the BSP would be driven to raise interest rates soon "but will use the Fed rate increase to disguise it."

The US Fed is widely expected to raise its own rate by another 25 basis points to 3.25 percent at the end of this month.

On top of pressures from local politics, the narrowing differential between local and US interest rates was also seen putting the BSP under pressure to raise rates so as to preserve the attractiveness of peso assets to foreign investors.

In a separate interview, Roland Avante, treasurer of Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines, said the BSP would likely raise rates by next month.

"I think they will not do it this month but will do it next month because all the factors will press them to—inflation, exchange rate, political issues, oil prices and wage and fare increases," Avante said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Shares close 2.53% lower

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 50.62 points to 1,954.09 after trading between 1,950.98 and 2,004.71. Volume was 360.5 million shares worth P917.9 million.

The broader all-shares index fell 24.08 points to 1,188.79.

Losers led gains 74 to eight, with 34 stocks unchanged.

"The market is becoming more and more cautious given concerns over politics and inflation," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"The scenario of oil prices coming down has becpme more unlikely and as a result this will put pressure on the profit margins of companies and eventually economic growth," he said.

"Investors are in a profit-taking mode and it is very clear that their investment preference is short-term, which means they are now less optimistic about the economy," De Leon added. *AFP*

Peso closes . . .

From page B1

and her family reversed the uptrend.

"The next question is, will the volatility of the peso continue beyond June or July? That's something that we need to monitor and be watchful of," BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

Runaway oil prices are likewise causing more jitters to the foreign exchange market, as higher dollar requirements for oil imports will inevitably put pressure on the peso.

Under the BSP's assumption, full-year Dubai crude would average at 44.21 a barrel. In the first five months of the year, it has averaged at 43.22, which implies that to meet the assumption, crude price should stay close to $45 a barrel from June to the end of the year.

"To the extent that the oil prices at these levels of above $50/barrel will continue there will be some basis for reviewing our assumption on oil prices. But until such time, our assumption is valid," Guinigundo said.

"But you don't know what will happen. We're hoping this thing will blow away and some normalcy will be restored," Guinigundo said

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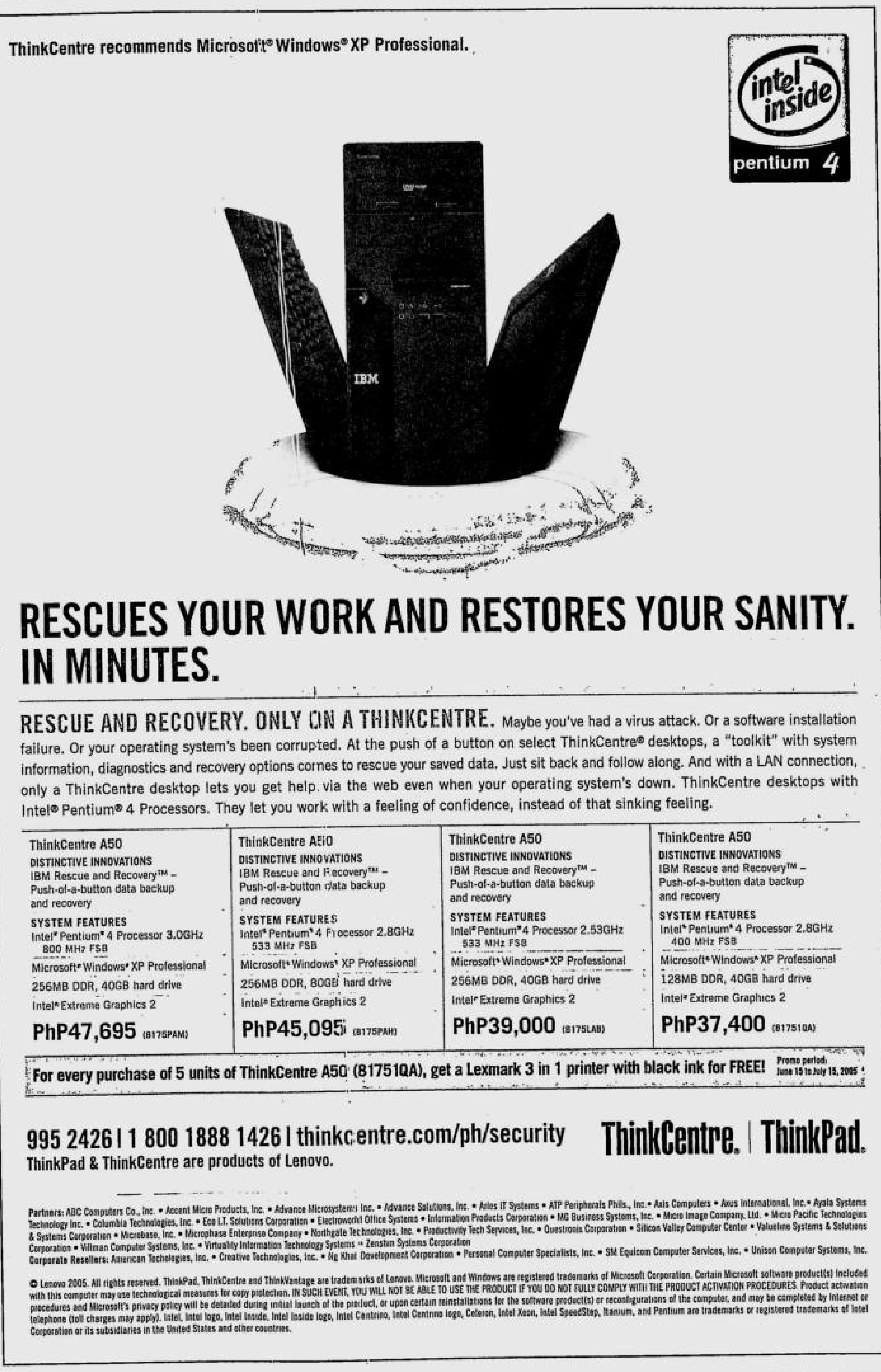

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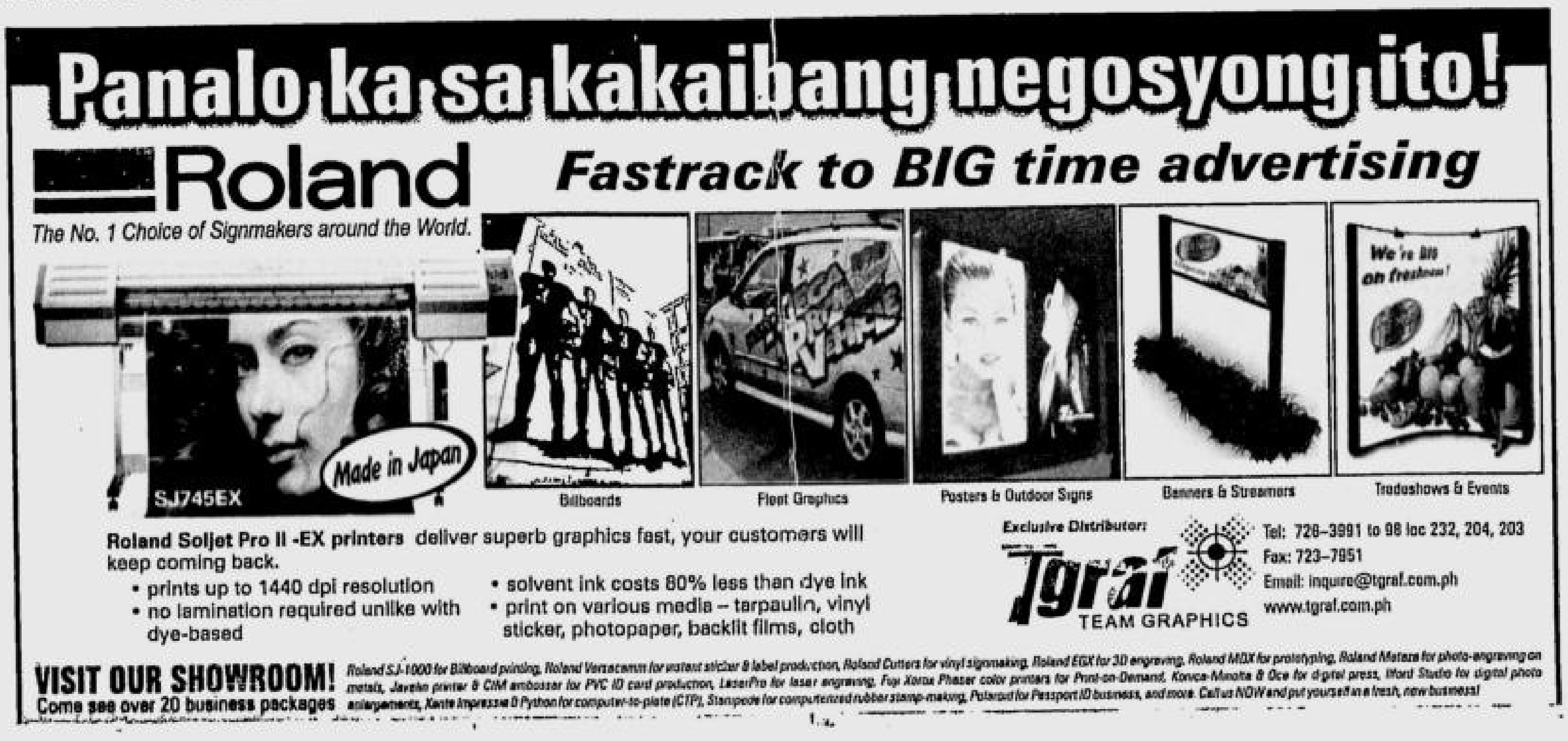

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Techie battles computer, loneliness bugs for better life

LEJARDE

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

EVERYDAY, Gary Lejarde takes the bus to the station, boards the train and gets off at the Parramatta station. He takes a short walk along the red river gum-shaded sidewalk of Church Street to get to his office at Westfield Shoppingtown. The 30-minute scenic trip signals the start of another busy workday for this Pinoy amidst a multicultural community of Chinese, Indians, Lebanese, New Zealanders and of course, Australians. Gary Lejarde is an Information Technology assistant for DXN international Australia Pty. Ltd., a multinational company in Parramatta, New South Wales (NSW), Australia.

Moving Down Under

Well adept in web design and development, and highly experienced in the field of PC troubleshooting, configuring workstations and networks, and assembling computers, Lejarde worked as a web developer and systems administrator for an eBusiness network company in the Philippines. After five years, he figured it was time to test his skills in new grounds. Last year, to move up in his career and to save up for the future, Lejarde decided to move to Australia.

"I'm usually the handyman of the company," Lejarde kids about his job. By handyman, Lejarde means he takes care of systems administration and networking concerns of the company. Lejarde sets up and maintains DXN's server. He is also in charge of the systems administration and networking of computers including troubleshooting of PC hardware and software and network cabling. His web design and development skills come in handy for his job as he also creates and maintains DXN International Australia's website.

Australian firm

DXN international Australia Pty. Ltd. is a company that markets health supplements that contain ganoderma. Ganoderma is one of the highest ranking mushrooms in the world of fungi. To service DXN's growing market, the company employs several marketing programs that need the support of Lejarde's IT expertise. In addition to systems administration and maintenance, he also inputs and modifies data from day to day orders to the database.

Since he works mostly with machines, Lejarde's job requires a lot of analytical thinking, logic and lots of patience. Lejarde first honed his analytical and logical skills at the University of Santo Tomas where he graduated with a BS Mathematics major in Computer Science degree. After graduation, he immediately immersed himself in the field of bits and bytes by first working as a data encoder. He quickly moved up the ranks and became junior programmer in just a few months. Soon, he also dabbled in computer training, web development and systems administration.

Required skills

He claims that a systems administrator should be skilled in driver software, uninstallers, antivirus applications, networking, backup, printers, launchers, file compression, firewalls, system utilities, file and disk management, security and encryption, remote access and Adware and Spyware removal just to name a few. He also encourages IT students to learn and master the operating system and other applications like the Microsoft Office. Aside from mastering the computer hardware, he also suggests to add Internet and networking hardware proficiency in to the checklist. Internet and networking hardware include modems, routers, switches, cables CAT5 with RJ45 connectors and servers.

Although DXN is relatively small, setting up, troubleshooting and maintaining the company's server all by himself proved to be a challenge for awhile. Everyone in DXN relies on him for their IT needs. It didn't help that he had to adjust to the company's unfamiliar system.

Sometimes, an undetectable software bug or program error could present a major challenge especially when he has spent a good part of the day addressing it. Often, he realizes that the best thing to do is to step back.

Although Lejarde is adept in Visual Basic and several other computer languages, he had to struggle with a language barrier. Oddly, he hardly interacts with Australians in the office because many officemates are Chinese. "I'm having a hard time understanding them and explaining things to them and vice versa. In more ways than one, it affects our communication."

With the exception of language, Australia's culture works for Lejarde. "Out here, they really observe punctuality. The good thing is the boss doesn't mind you going home on the exact time. I also spend less overtime here," Lejarde marvels.

Far from home

Temporarily living with a family friend, Lejarde has been in Australia for less than a year. Although the clean air and the conveniences of a progressive country makes NSW a perfect candidate for building a home, Lejarde still longs for his family and the hustle and bustle of Metro Manila. "There was never a day that I didn't think of going home," affirms the homesick Pinoy. But Lejarde feels that with the Australian dollars that he earns, he can finally live a better life, the kind that he was deprived of back in the Philippines even when he "worked like a horse." He believes that God planted him in NSW for a reason and he completely surrenders to his Creator's plans. "I know that God is in control of our lives, that if you really think and contemplate on it, He really plans this to happen. It's up to us how we react and acknowledge it."

(E-mail feedback to candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

Multilingual Filipina connects with Italian market

By Ime Morales Aznar
Contributor

PARCERO IME AZNAR/CONTRIBUTOR

TWO of the more positive consequences of the mushrooming of call centers in the Philippines are the creation of high-paying jobs for more people, and the development of highly articulate young professionals. It is now common to see and hear English-speaking Filipino agents, or customer service associates, talking with the requisite American twang.

There is, however, a small percentage of call center professionals who could speak other languages, apart from English and Filipino. And they get a "language premium," too. Meaning, the pay is definitely higher.

Challenges

Anna Rossini Parcero is a 24-year-old Filipina who applied for a job at E-Telecare "out of curiosity." Being fluent in Italian, she also heard about the proverbial high salaries, especially for multilingual agents. "I just came back from a six-month stay in Italy, on scholarship," she recalls, "and I wanted to be a part of a stable organization. I heard call centers give good benefits and excellent compensation packages, so I applied." Parcero got accepted, of course, and is now a part of a worldwide program of the company.

"I usually get calls from banks in Italy and from Italian travelers," she reveals, "but I get calls in English also, from people in other countries." One must be very flexible when working as a customer service associate, especially with one's working hours. Some programs require agents to go on graveyard shifts or render overtime work. Attendance and punctuality are very important factors also, since agents are usually paid per minute.

Despite these apparent challenges, Parcero affirms that agents must work to "maintain good service level, because your performance is monitored, and your errors are tracked." She says that in her company, an agent who logs errors for three consecutive months is taken out of the program. This is implemented to maintain the high service level that the customers expect.

Good option

"There are agents who speak Spanish, Italian, French, German, Japanese and Dutch," Parcero reveals. Having the capability to speak a foreign language is already an advantage, if you are considering a job in a call center. Aside from English speakers, "Spanish and French-speaking agents are also in demand," she says, "because there are more Spanish- and French-speaking nations."

Parcero feels that the need continues to grow since "it (call center) is also a growing industry." Perhaps this owes to the fact that the Philippines is among the few countries worldwide that offer inexpensive labor. As long as one is computer literate and is fluent in one's language of choice, there is a good chance of landing a job. There is no age limit for applicants, at least for E-Telecare. "Promotion comes easier for multilingual agents, too," Parcero hastens to add.

Fulfillment

"It may sound corny," Parcero warns, "but fulfillment comes from being able to help customers." When a customer thanks her, or when an irate caller calms down and expresses gratitude, it gives her a great feeling. "Sometimes I get calls from people who are in a foreign country, who can't speak the language, who have no money and nothing to eat," she relates, "who I'm able to help somehow-that's fulfillment enough for me."

Frustration, on the other hand, sets in when her hands seem tied and can't help her caller. "As customer service associates, we are the frontliners," Parcero says, "so we are expected to solve the problem; but when we can't do anything anymore, the blame falls on us." This, and the fact that the work is often perceived to be boring, are just some of the "hazards" that go with the job. Parcero, however, feels challenged. "Because I believe that change is not about changing the external environment," she admits, "it's all about changing yourself and your outlook."

"I should be thankful that I have a job," Parcero says with a smile, "I am enthusiastic about my job now, and I am, in fact, eyeing another promotion."

(Send feedback to blubitel@yahoo.com.)

How to work in 'multi-generation' workplace

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

(Continuation from June 8 issue)

SOFT as it may seem to many, coping with intergenerational differences requires a very simple solution: understanding. At the core of most intergenerational conflicts is an inherent distrust. Younger workers may suspect that older workers deliberately refuse to understand technology, while older workers may suspect that younger ones deliberately complicate things by insisting on technology.

When one generation imposes itself and its expectations and standards on the other, conflict arises. If, however, both younger and older workers consistently try to accept that each generation acts according to what it grew up with, then perhaps both will better understand their diverse behaviors. Instead of asking "Why do you work like that?" It might be better to ask "Knowing that you are like that, how can we complement each other?"

Younger workers can show small acts of kindness, such as going slow when teaching older workers how to cut and paste text, adjusting font size to address blurring vision, or patiently waiting until the older ones gain some confidence to experiment on their own. Older workers can seek to learn what the computer can or cannot do so that they do not make impossible demands. They can refrain from blaming others for seeming technological glitches when in truth, they do not know enough to perform an operation.

There are many options to take in addressing generation gap in the workplace and lessen its adverse effects on workforce health. It all depends on choice.

Both younger and older workers can choose to highlight similarities rather than differences, collaborate rather than compete. Managers and supervisors can choose to model understanding rather than judgment. They can choose to set a climate where mutual respect is a norm rather than a deviation.

Generation gap can be redefined so that the term merely describes age differences and their differing world views. The term should not necessarily presume conflict. Intergenerational realities as they exist in workplaces can, in fact, be potent forces for productivity and high achievement. By appreciating that each generation is a gift to the other, both younger and older workers can begin to focus on what they can collectively do. Organizations which foster collaboration across ages create work environments that bring out excellence in all age groups.

Workforces are, after all, human enterprises that respond positively to those things that affirm our shared humanity, vulnerability and inherent need for each other, young and old alike.

(Loree Cruz-Mante is a human resources and organization development practitioner, resident writer of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, and senior consultant with leading transitions management firm Drake Beam Morin. E-mail feedback to lmante@yahoo.com.)

'How can we get rid of destructive politics?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM a member of the management team of a multinational corporation. Last year, you handled planning for the transformation of our local company operations. As an expert in management of change, how would you go about changing the way we handle politics in our country?

Personally, as an ordinary citizen, I am so disgusted with the destructive manner politics is played. I think all politicians are corrupt and should all resign. It does not matter if they are with the administration or with the opposition. I also think the government bureaucracy, except for a number of agencies and government employees, are corrupt and are more concerned with *lagay* rather than serving the people.

What are the solutions to our problems? What are we to do with the stalemate between the executive and the opposition? Many of my friends are telling me to give up. The only option left is to leave the country for Australia or Canada. As Filipinos, we are incapable of governing ourselves. As a regular reader of your column, I noticed you have always been positive. I love this country, please inspire me. What do you suggest?

Disgusted Citizen

You expressed your disgust for all politicians and bewail corrupt practices in the government bureaucracy. Surely, you have listened to commentaries over radio and television as to what the President should do and what she should not do. We also see the opposition developing their own strategy in the familiar line "in aid of legislation." Personally, my view is for us to engage in out-of-the-box thinking. We desperately need to change our paradigms.

Instead of looking at isolated incidents and cases, let us take an integrated and systemic look. Often, I wonder why our country seems to be abandoned by God, for the affliction of negative politics continues to plague us. But then again, I can almost hear God say, but I already gave you the miracle at EDSA 1. You have the human freedom to make intelligent choices plus the gift of the Christian faith. Work on your country, live your faith.

Purification process

Honestly, these difficult times are important moments of purification for us as a nation. What we need badly is the "politics of unity." Let us unite, all of us putting on the patriotic Filipino hat. Let us shed off our hat as "administration" or "opposition" or "critic" or "bystander" and examine what our vision as a country should be. Let us convert ourselves individually and as a nation. Let us follow what happened in the Old Testament where, starting from the king and down to the lowly animal, they put on ashes and sack cloth because they have displeased the Lord. If our system of politics produces corrupt politicians, who blatantly commit sin, it is because as citizens, we have tolerated a corrupt system. In essence, all of us have sinned.

My solution (which I know is totally unacceptable in traditional politics) is for the President, the legislative, and the opposition to ask forgiveness from the people for subverting their will and for not working for the common good. As ordinary citizens, we should ask forgiveness from God and from each other, for our indifference and lack of vigilance, allowing evil to thrive in our society. We have found the enemy and the enemy is all of us. Once we have given each other a clean slate, then we can think of transformation.

Power hungry politicians

We have been reared in the Western concept of playing politics that has turned out to be divisive, producing power-hungry politicians working for their personal, family or party interests rather than for the common good. In Europe, inspired by the ideas of Chiara Lubich and the Focolare Movement, many politicians have started to adhere to the politics of unity. It means overcoming partisan politics for the common good. This means forming a new type of politician, who can then start to renew the political system.

One of the most popular interventions in business today is team building. We know how empowered a united team can be, how it can achieve company vision and goals and how it can produce outstanding company results. Let us have the legislative and executive branches work together as a team, the opposition and administration. Let us have them walk together towards unity "to be of one mind and of one heart." What would be the results? Stronger resolve and action to address our pressing national problems: unemployment, poverty, deteriorating standards of education, etc.

Strong team

But building a strong team requires the ability to suppress one's ego, to build trust, to suspend judgment, to appreciate and build on somebody else's ideas. Is this a dream? For me, the only way out of our problem of poor governance lies in our ability to change the current divisive culture of politics. If we don't, we will not be able to change the quality of our leaders for they will continue to work within rules that can subvert the best of intentions.

Who can introduce politicians to the "politics of unity?" We need impartial, acknowledged expert facilitators in group process with a deep and abiding faith and those who have experienced working towards building unity.

In closing, believe and have faith that God continues to care and watch over us. He is the God of history. If we listen to Him and live our faith, nothing is impossible in God.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

Leading US data declined in May

NEW YORK —A closely watched gauge of future business activity fell more than expected in May, indicating slower economic growth may lie ahead later this year, a private research group announced Monday.

The New York-based Conference Board reported that its Composite Index of Leading Indicators fell 0.5 percent last month to 114.1. The decline was more than the 0.2 percent drop that analysts had expected.

The May decline follows a revised unchanged level in April and a 0.6 percent decline in March.

In a statement, Ken Goldstein, the board's labor economist, said that the indicators suggest "slower growth setting in during the third quarter." But he added that this is "not just a domestic phenomenon."

He noted that six of the eight countries for which the Conference Board monitors a leading economic index have either showed declines or slower growth.

Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wachovia Corp. in Charlotte, North Carolina, said that he's not worried about the decline, adding "this is a sign of a slower economy, but not anything more serious than that."

The Conference Board reported Monday that only one of the 10 components of the leading index—stock prices—increased in May.

The other components that dragged down the index included building permits, vendors performances, the index of consumer expectations, manufacturers' new orders for nondefense capital goods, consumer goods and materials and average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance.

Vitner added that the Federal Reserve's moves to push short-term interest rates higher over the past year to keep inflation in check is working, and "we are nearing the point that they will leave it unchanged, and let the economy regain momentum."

He expects the Fed to raise rates when policymakers meet in June and August.

The index of coincident indicators, which measures the current economy, rose 0.2 percent in May, to 119.7.

The gain followed a 0.2 percent increase in April, and no change in March.

All four components that make up the coincident index increased in May, led by industrial production. The others were personal income less transfer payments, employees on nonagricultural payrolls and manufacturing and trade sales.

The index of lagging indicators, which looks back to the past six months, increased 0.3 percent to 99.8. That followed a 0.1 percent rise in April, and a 0.2 percent decline in March. Four of the seven components strengthened, led by average duration of unemployment.

The negative contributor was a change in the consumer price index for services. The change in labor cost per unit of output and ratio of consumer installment credit to personal income held steady.

On Wall Street, stocks sank as investors appeared to focus on the possible impact of rising oil prices.

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ASSET DISPOSAL PROJECT
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Dillman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"
FOR THE SALE OF NPC TUGBOAT NO. 2 & 3
DATE OF BIDDING: July 12, 2005

The National Power Corporation will receive sealed bids on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the assets described below.

ITEM DESCRIPTION		Min. Bid Price
LOT 1: One (1) unit Unused Tugboat, 3000 PS (Tugboat No. 3)		P31,335,000.00
Length (Overall, without rubber fender/sheal)	: 33.30 meter (approx.)	
Breadth (molded)	: 9.20 meter	
Depth (molded)	: 3.90 meter	
Designed Load Draught (molded)	: 2.90 meter	
Gross Tonnage (international)	: 310.00 tons	
Loading Capacity	: 80.00 tons (approx.)	
MAIN DIESEL ENGINES		
Make	: Mitsubishi	
No. of Units	: 2 units	
No. of Cylinder	: 6 cylinders	
Max. Continuous Output	: 1500 PS @ 1150 rpm	
Normal Output	: 1350 PS @ 1110 rpm	
Acquired	: 1998	
Location	: Naga, Cebu	
LOT 2: One (1) unit Tugboat (Tugboat No. 2)		P31,406,500.00
Length (Overall)	: 30.40 meters	
Beam (molded)	: 7.40 meters	
Draft Maximum	: 2.30 meters	
Gross Tonnage	: 180 tons	
Main Diesel Engine, 2 units	: Detroit 16V-92N 626 PS @ 1800 rpm	
Generator Engine, 2 Units	: Detroit, Type 4-71N 70KW @ 1800 rpm	
Rated Output	: 1,200 HP	
Manufacturer	: President Marine	
Date Manufactured	: 1994	
Location	: Naga, Cebu	

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00)** at the Materials Management Department office, Ground Floor, Building No. 1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at **10:00 a.m. on July 12, 2005** at the NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond (Cash or Manager's Check only) of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid. The Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation have concurred with the bidding process and clearance for the disposal was duly approved.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required informality, and to accept such bids that is most advantageous to the Government.

Issuance of bidding documents is on **June 20, 2005 to July 6, 2005**. A Pre-bid conference will be conducted at **2:00 p.m. on July 6, 2005** at the Pahiyas Room, NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Additional information may be obtained from Asset Disposal Project office at telephone nos. 922-3970, and 921-3541 loc. 5582, or e-mail us at *lcarabelo@napocor.gov.ph*.

(Sgd.) LEVI C. ARABELO
Chairman, Task Force for the Disposal of Tugboats 2 & 3

Note: This advertisement is also posted in our website: hipp://www.napocor.gov.ph

(PDI - June 20, 22 & 24, 2005)

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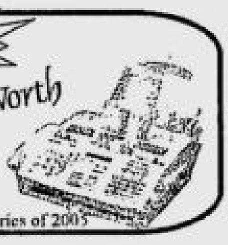

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SBMABAC-INV-001-05

JUNE 16, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers wil be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed items:

A. ITEMS:	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET
ONE (1) LOT	SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER CAB GLASS PANEL AT BLDG. 8050, SUBIC BAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SBFZ.	P1,498,817.60

Scope of Work: The scope shall be the total rehabilitation of the air traffic control tower glass panel (insulating glass type) including frames and roll-up film curtains. The control tower has sixteen (16) units of glass panel (consist of exterior and interior glasses for each panel) installed which are to be removed and replaced with new sets of glass panels for uniformity together with its frames. The roll-up film curtains will be enhanced and cleansed accordingly to give best visibility and function. The contractor will provide professional services and shall supply and install necessary materials for the attainment of the objectives.

B. Complete information/requirements and the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the project will be provided upon issuance of bidding documents to all applicant suppliers/contractors.

C. Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to all Suppliers with the following requirements:
1. Article of incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (Received by authorized bank, certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Company PROFILE
8. List of projects (past and present)
9. List of Clients
10. Prospective Bidder's statement that he is not "blacklisted" from any other government/private companies
11. Prospective bidder shall certify under oath (Sec. 23.8 of RA 9184):
    - that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of eligibility requirements is an authentic and original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original;
    - complete; and
    - that all statements and information therein are true and correct.

D. Issuance of Bidding Documents and Site Inspection is on **June 22-23 up to 5:00 p.m.** at the cost of **P1,000.00** which is non refundable.

E. Pre-Bid Conference schedule is on **June 27, 2005, (Monday) 2:00 p.m.** at PPMD Conference Rm., Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

F. Submission/Opening of Bids (Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals): **June 30, 2005 2:00 p.m. (SBMA Bundy Clock reckoning time)** at PPMD Conference Rm., Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, and evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
BAC Chairman

For inquiries please call:
BAC Secretariat
Tel. No. (047) 252-4283/4210
Fax No. (047) 252-4284/4251
Address:
PPMD Office
Bldg. 255, Barryman Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
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(PDI - June 18 & June 22, 2005)

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228042-43

2% w/o Taking Car 7212780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966830/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Tranquilino M. Tinana has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 161, Page No. 33, Book No. 8, Series of 2005 of Atty. Romenco Espera of Quezon City. (PDI-June 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement of estate of the late GREGORIA APOLINARIO by her legal heirs with waiver as per Doc. No. 193; Page No. 40; Book No. 579; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Cecilio C. Casals of Pasay City (PDI-June 22, 29 & July 6, 2005)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.
Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish.
After 3rd day Your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be.
Please publish this after praying. -RRA

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The Assistant Project Manager will assist the Project Manager in overall implementation and management of the rural energy development projects, including leading technical aspects of the identification, assessment, preparation, and planning of rural renewable energy sub-projects in specific barangays, and provide project coordination and overall guidance for rural energy project implementation. Related program duties of the Assistant Project Manager will include: monitoring overall performance against the project work plan and expenditure schedule; performing liaison duties with funding agencies, team partners, and key collaborators; overseeing and coordinating with subcontractors and consultants; overseeing performance of program staff; preparing required reports and deliverables; and coordinating with the headquarters office on technical, managerial and administrative issues.

The responsibilities of the Senior Renewable Energy Engineer include identifying, preparing and implementing rural renewable energy projects for livelihood and social applications, related community organization and social preparation, and training and technical assistance. The positions are expected to be based in Manila, with extensive travel to project regions.

Interested candidates should have a university degree in engineering, rural development, agribusiness, or closely related field; proven leadership and management skills; prior management or supervisory experience with rural field projects; ability to work in a fast-paced environment, under very tight performance schedules; ability to manage a very diverse group of professionals and technicians and communicate well with rural community members; experience in designing and implementing community development, social preparation and training programs in rural areas; and excellent written and oral communication skills both in English and Filipino. Knowledge of Visayan would be a plus. Experience in renewable energy preferred for the Assistant Manager position and essential for the Senior Renewable Energy Engineer position.

Candidates who possess the skills and experience to fulfill both sets of duties are preferred and strongly encouraged to apply.

Cover letters and resumes should be sent to jobs@winrock.org or PO Box # 12736, Ortigas Center, 1600, Pasig City. Deadline for applications is on July 4, 2005.

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- w/at least 1 yr experience
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OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
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BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance with RA 7041

1. GENERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU A

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER 1 – Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-100-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-101-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-103-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-104-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-105-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-106-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-107-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-109-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-110-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-111-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-116-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-117-2005; (12 POSITIONS); SG 15
Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

LEGAL ASSISTANT II – OMBA-LEA2-76-2005; OMBA-LEA2-82-2005; OMBA-LEA2-85-2005; (3 POSITIONS); SG 12
Education: Bachelor's degree: Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

2. GENERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU B

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I – Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-70-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-71-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-72-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-73-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-74-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-75-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-102-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-108-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-112-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-113-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-114-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-115-2005; (12 POSITIONS); SG 15
Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience: Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

LEGAL ASSISTANT II – Item No. OMBA-LEA-74-2005; OMBA-LEA-83-2005; OMBA-LEA-84-2005; (3 POSITIONS); SG 12
Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

3. GENERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU C

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I – Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-76-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-77-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-78-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-79-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-80-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-81-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-82-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-83-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-84-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-85-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-86-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-87-2005; (12 POSITIONS) ; SG 15
Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

LEGAL ASSISTANT II – Item No. OMBA-LEA2-75-2005; OMBA-LEA2-80-2005; (2 POSITIONS); SG 12
Education: Bachelor's degree: Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

4. ASSETS INVESTIGATION BUREAU

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I – Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-88-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-89-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-90-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-91-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-92-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-93-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-94-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-95-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-96-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-97-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-98-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-99-2005; (12 POSITIONS) SG 15
Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

LEGAL ASSISTANT II – Item No. OMBA-LEA2-77-2005; OMBA-LEA2-81-2005; (2 POSITIONS); SG 12
Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

5. INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I – Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-118-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-119-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-120-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-121-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-122-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-123-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-124-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-125-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-126-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-127-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-128-2005; OMBA-AGIO1-129-2005; (12 POSITIONS); SG 15
Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

LEGAL ASSISTANT II – Item No. OMBA-LEA-78-2005; OMBA-LEA-79-2005; (2 POSITIONS); SG 12
Education : Bachelor's degree; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Second Level Eligibility

6. MONITORING & EDP DIVISION

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER III – Item No. OMBA-COMPRO3-1-1998; SG 18
Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER II – Item No. OMBA-COMPRO2-2-1998; SG 15
Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

COMPUTER OPERATOR II – OMBA-COMPO2-2-1998; SG-9
Education: Completion of two years studies in College or High School graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional)/ Data Encoder (MC 11,s.96-CAT.1)/First Level Eligibility

Applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1"x1" picture (colored)
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) *Transcript of Records;
6) *Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consaguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

*Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

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For further information please contact Maggie Calderon-Alicante at
Tel: 852 2910/11 loc. 111 Email: mags.calderon@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher

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Notice of Loss

This is to inform the public that **Marcel Trading Corporation**, owner of several shares of stocks of **Philippine Bio-Industries, Inc.** declared the following stock certificates are lost:

Stock Certificate No.	No. of Shares
2	104, 998
9	234, 000
11	81, 000
13	75, 838
15	24, 162

All reasonable efforts were undertaken by the present management of Marcel Trading Corporation, but to no avail. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.

The Management
Marcel Trading Corporation
(PDI–June 22, 29 & July 6, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
CITY OF PARAÑAQUE
BRANCH 258

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
FOR THE REHABILITATION OF:
SP.PROC. CASE NO. 03-182
ANNA-LYNN'S, INCORPORATED,
Petitioner,
x-----------------------------------x

NOTICE

Notice is hereby made that the Regional Trial Court, National Capital Judicial Region, Branch 258, Parañaque City, with the Honorable Raul E. de Leon, Presiding Judge, APPROVED on 30 May 2005 the Rehabilitation Plan of Anna-Lynn's, Incorporated, as amended and recommended for approval thereof by Ms. Marilou O. Adea, the Court-Appointed Rehabilitation Receiver.

As such, the Rehabilitation Receiver is now in the process of implementing or executing the court approved rehabilitation plan beginning July 10, 2005.

All creditors, claimants, and suppliers, particularly the admitted ones, as well as counsels, oppositors and other concerned parties are likewise notified that copies of the 30 May 2005 Decision of the RTC of Parañaque City, Branch 258, as well as the Approved Rehabilitation Plan of Anna-Lynn's, Incorporated, are all available and on file with the said Court and may therefore be inspected, reproduced or copied by all parties on record or all persons concerned.

Any inquiry thereof may be coursed or relayed to:

MS. MARILOU O. ADEA
Court-Appointed Rehabilitation Receiver
3F, Anna-Lynn's Building
Montillano St. Cor. South Superhighway
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No. 842-0568; Fax No. 807-0052/92

Las Piñas City 16 June 2005

ANGELITO W. CHUA LAW OFFICE
Counsel for the Rehabilitation Receiver
Block 14, Lot 1, G. Diaz Street cor. Aurora
Pijuan Street (Cul de Sac), BF Resort Village,
Talon 2, Las Piñas City 1740, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 872-4521; Facsimile No. 892-4458
Mobile No. (09167580879)
E-mail address: awchualawyer@yahoo

By:

ANGELITO W. CHUA (Sgd.)
Of the Firm
PTR No. 9405755C; Makati City; 04 January 2005
IBP O.R. No. 636018, Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas
Chapter, 11 January 2005
Attorney's Roll No. 23715; Page 243; Book No. 10

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCLAMATION NO. 763

CREATING AND DESIGNATING PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PRIVATE DOMAIN SITUATED IN THE CITY OF CEBU, ISLAND OF CEBU, WHICH IS A PORTION OF THE CEBU CITY SOUTH RECLAMATION PROJECT, AS SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7916 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8748

Pursuant to the powers vested in me under Republic Act No. 7916, otherwise known as the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995, as amended by Republic Act No. 8748, and upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby create and designate as Special Economiz Zone, subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7916, as amended, its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and Resolution No. 97-273 dated 18 August 1997 of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, an area located at the City of Cebu, Island of Cebu, which is a portion of the Cebu City South Reclamation Project, consisting of **TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY NINE (2,956,929) SQUARE METERS**, more or less, as defined by the following technical description:

Lot 1
SK-07-000037

A parcel of land (Lot 1, SK-07-000037), situated at City of Cebu, Island of Cebu. Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2, with a Salvage Zone (20.00 meter wide) and encroached or overlapped Psu-254427 (portion), Psu-01-000958, Psu-072250-006346 (portion) Lot 7, Pcs-5446 (portion), by Bohol Strait, Psu-254427 (portion), Psu-072250-006346 (portion), Lot 7, Pcs-5446 (portion), all within City of Talisay, on the NW., SW., NW., and NE., along lines 2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19 by Lot 2 (Buffer Zone) of the same plan, on the SE., along Lines 19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39, with a Salvage Zone (20 meters wide), by Bohol Strait, on the NE., along lines 39-40-41-42, with a Salvage Zone (20 meters wide), by Kawit Island and Bohol Strait; and on the SE., and SW., along lines 42-43-44-45-46-1, with a Salvage Zone (20 meters wide), by Bohol Strait.

Beginning on a point marked "1" being S. 40 deg. 25 E., 1,664.82 meters from BM No. 55, Cebu Cad. 12;

thence N. 49 deg. 35' W.	434.90 m. to point 2;
thence N. 40 deg. 22' E.	311.73 m. to point 3;
thence N. 21 deg. 10' W.	216.51 m. to point 4;
thence N. 21 deg. 10' W.	178.40 m. to point 5;
thence N. 39 deg. 01' W.	164.05 m. to point 6;
thence N. 39 deg. 02' W.	298.32 m. to point 7;
thence N. 12 deg. 13' E.	273.75 m. to point 8;
thence N. 43 deg. 36' E.	395.00 m. to point 9;
thence N. 43 deg. 36' E.	395.00 m. to point 10;
thence N. 43 deg. 36' E.	400.55 m. to point 11;
thence N. 43 deg. 33' E.	180.96 m. to point 12;
thence N. 58 deg. 17' E.	124.55 m. to point 13;
thence N. 43 deg. 35' E.	300.03 m. to point 14;
thence N. 74 deg. 20' E.	432.07 m. to point 15;
thence N. 43 deg. 17' E.	312.41 m. to point 16;
thence S. 57 deg. 39' E.	280.40 m. to point 17;
thence S. 09 deg. 28' E.	159.01 m. to point 18;
thence S. 09 deg. 32' E.	25.14 m to point 19;
thence S. 43 deg.16' W.	360.00 m. to point 20;
thence S. 43 deg. 17' W.	370.37 m. to point 21;
thence S. 42 deg. 32' W.	19.20 m. to point 22;
thence S. 41 deg. 12' W.	19.99 m. to point 23;
thence S. 39 deg. 40' W.	20.01 m. to point 24;
thence S. 38 deg. 15' W.	20.02 m. to point 25;
thence S. 36 deg. 42' W.	19.98 m. to point 26;
thence S. 35 deg. 17' W.	19.99 m. to point 27;
thence S. 33 deg. 42' W.	19.99 m. to point 28;
thence S. 32 deg. 21' W.	20.03 m. to point 29;
thence S. 31 deg. 06' W.	19.92 m. to point 30;
thence S. 29 deg. 24' W.	19.95 m. to point 31;
thence S. 27 deg. 44' W.	20.13 m. to point 32;
thence S. 26 deg. 33' W.	19.98 m. to point 33;
thence S. 25 deg. 02' W.	20.21 m. to point 34;
thence S. 23 deg. 27' W.	19.78 m. to point 35;
thence S. 22 deg. 03' W.	20.00 m. to point 36;
thence S. 20 deg. 45' W.	19.93 m. to point 37;
thence S. 19 deg. 51' W.	280.00 m. to point 38;
thence S. 19 deg. 52' W.	287.63 m. to point 39;
thence S. 41 deg. 24' E.	90.10 m. to point 40;
thence S. 19 deg. 38' E.	298.92 m. to point 41;
thence S. 19 deg. 41' E.	132.64 m. to point 42
thence S. 40 deg. 27' W.	460.00 m. to point 43;
thence S. 40 deg. 27' W.	460.00 m. to point 44;
thence S. 40 deg. 27' W.	482.87 m. to point 45;
thence N. 49 deg. 34' W.	20.00 m. to point 46;
thence N. 49 deg. 34' W.	94.96 m. to point of beginning,

containing an area of **TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY NINE (2,956,929) SQUARE METERS**, more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mons., 15 x 40 cms. Bearings true, dates of original survey executed by Geodetic Engineer Edgar T. Batiquin on November 24, 2001 and approved on July 1, 2004.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done, in the City of Manila this 20th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

—— ooOoo ——

MALACAÑANG

Manila

PROCLAMATION NO. 843

AMENDING PROCLAMATION NO. 200-A, DATED MAY 22, 1967, WHICH RESERVED FOR NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN SAN NICOLAS, PARDO (NOW PART OF CEBU CITY) AND TANGKE, TALISAY (NOW TALISAY CITY), PROVINCE OF CEBU, BY RESERVING A CERTAIN PORTION THEREOF AS THE CEBU SOUTH RECLAMATION PROJECT AND TRANSFERRING ITS OWNERSHIP TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF CEBU, AND DECLARING SUCH AREA AS A ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE

Upon recommendation of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, and by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, **I , GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby amend Proclamation No. 200-A dated May 22, 1967 which reserved for national improvement purposes certain parcels of land of the public domain located in San Nicolas, Pardo (now part of Cebu City) and Tangke, Talisay (now Talisay City), Cebu, Island of Cebu, by reserving a certain portion thereof containing an aggregate area of **TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY NINE (2,956,929) SQUARE METERS**, more or less, as the Cebu City South Reclamation Project, transferring its ownership to the City Government of Cebu, and declaring such area alienable and disiposable, subject to private rights, if any there be, and to actual ground survey, which parcels of land are more particularly described as follows:

Lot 1-A
(Cebu City South Reclamation Project)

"A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 1-A), being a portion of Lot 1, SK-07-000037, situated in the City of Cebu, Island of Cebu.

Bounded on the SW. and S., along lines 1-2-3 by Lot 1-B, SRP; on the SW., along lines 3-4 by Channel (50.00 meters wide); on the NW., and NE., along lines 4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21 by Lot 2, SK-07-000037 (Buffer Zone); on the SE., along lines 21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47, by Cebu-Mactan South Channel and Kawit Island; on the SE., along lines 47-48-49-1 by channel.

Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being S 40 deg. 18' E, 1,643.88 meters from BM No. 55, Cad 12, Cebu Cadastre; thence:

N. 30 deg. 08' W.,	187.88 m. to point 2;
S. 87 deg. 38' W.,	92.19 m. to point 3;
N. 49 deg. 35' W.,	168.87 m. to point 4;
N. 40 deg. 22' E,	311.73 m. to point 5;
N. 21 deg. 10' W.,	216.51 m. to point 6;
N. 21 deg. 10' W.,	178.40 m. to point 7;
N. 39 deg. 01' W.,	164.05 m. to point 8;
N. 39 deg. 02' W.,	298.32 m. to point 9;
N. 12 deg. 03' E.	273.75 m. to point 10;
N. 43 deg. 36' E.,	395.00 m. to point 11;
N. 43 deg. 36' E.,	395.00 m. to point 12;
N. 43 deg. 36' E.,	400.55 m. to point 13;
N. 43 deg. 33' E.,	180.96 m. to point 14;
N. 58 deg. 17' E.,	124.55 m. to point 15;
N. 43 deg. 35' E.,	300.03 m. to point 16;
N. 74 deg. 20' E.,	432.07 m. to point 17;
N. 43 deg. 17' E.,	312.41 m. to point 18;
S. 57 deg. 39' E.,	280.40 m. to point 19;
S. 09 deg. 28' E.,	159.01 m. to point 20;
S. 09 deg. 32' E.,	25.14 m to point 21;
S. 43 deg. 16' W.,	360.00 m. to point 22;
S 43 deg. 17' W.,	370.37 m. to point 23;
S 42 deg. 32' W.,	19.20 m. to point 24;
S. 41 deg. 22' W.,	19.99 m. to point 25;
S. 39 deg. 40' W.,	20.01 m to point 26;
S. 38 deg. 15' W.,	20.02 m. to point 27;
S. 36 deg. 42' W.,	19.98 m. to point 28;
S. 35 deg. 17' W.,	19.99 m. to point 29;
S. 33 deg. 42' W.,	19.99 m. to point 30;
S. 32 deg. 21' W.,	20.03 m. to point 31;
S. 31 deg. 06' W.,	19.92 m. to point 32;
S. 29 deg. 24' W.,	19.95 m. to point 33;
S. 27 deg. 44' W.,	20.13 m. to point 34;
S. 26 deg. 33' W.,	19.98 m. to point 35;
S. 25 deg. 02' W.,	20.21 m. to point 36;
S. 23 deg. 27' W.,	19.78 m. to point 37;
S. 22 deg. 03' W.,	20.00 m. to point 38;
S. 20 deg. 45' W.,	19.93 m. to point 39;
S. 19 deg. 51' W.,	280.00 m. to point 40;
S. 19 deg. 52' W.,	287.63 m. to point 41;
S. 41 deg. 24' E.,	90.10 m. to point 42;
S. 19 deg. 38' E.,	298.92 m. to point 43;
S. 19 deg. 41' E.,	132.64 m. to point 44;
S. 40 deg. 27' W.,	460.00 m. to point 45;
S. 40 deg. 27' W.,	460.00 m. to point 46;
S. 40 deg. 34' W.,	482.87 m. to point 47;
N. 49 deg. 34' W.,	20.00 m. to point 48;
N. 49 deg. 34' W.,	94.96 m. to point 49;
N. 49 deg. 35' W.,	21.21 m. to the point of

beginning, containing an area of **TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED FORTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTY SIX (2,949,266) SQUARE METERS**, more or less.

All points referred to are indicated on plan and point 2 is marked on the ground by MBM 30. Bearings True, Date of original survey executed by Geodetic Engineer Edgar T. Batiquin on November 24, 2001 and approved on July 01, 2004.

Lot 1-B
(Cebu City South Reclamation Project)

"A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 1-B), being a portion of Lot 1, SK-07-000037, situated in the City of Cebu, Island of Cebu.

Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by Channel; on the N., and NE., along lines 2-3-1 by Lot 1-A, SK-07-000037, SRP.

Beginning on a point marked "1" on plan being S. 40 deg. 18' E., 1,643.88 meters from BM No. 55, Cad. 12, Cebu Cadastre, thence:

N. 49 deg. 35' W.,	244.82 m. to point 2;
N. 87 deg. 38' E.,	92.19 m. to point 3;
S. 30 deg. 08' W.,	187.88 m to the point of

beginning, containing an area of SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY THREE (7,663) SQUARE METERS, more or less.

All points referred to are indicated on the plan and point 3 marked on the ground by MBM 30. Bearings True, Date of original survey executed by Geodetic Engineer Edgar T. Batiquin on November 24, 2001 and apporved on July 01, 2004.

The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources is hereby authorized to issue a Special Patent in the name of the City Government of Cebu subject to the conditions stated in this Proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done, in the City of Manila this 16th day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**
Executive Secretary

(PDI--June 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Regional Office No. V (Bicol)
Rawis, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

Deped Procurement Service

June 8, 2005

To: All Eligible Manufacturer/Supplier

1. The government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) intends to apply the sum of Nineteen Million Five Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (Php 19,536,600.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables and Chairs CY 2003, Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Department of Education through the Bids and Awards Committee now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables and Chairs for CY 2003. Delivery of GOODS is required by Region V, herewith as follows:

Regional Distribution	Lot No.	Elementary Tables and Chairs		Budget Allocation (In Php)
Region V	9	17,760	sets	19,536,600.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Invitation to Bid (ITB). The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. The Schedule of the bidding Activities shall be as follows:

REGION	PROVINCE/CITY	Availability of Bidding Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Opening	Address
Region V	Albay, Camarines Norte Camarines Sur, Cat'nes Masbate, Sorsogon	June 23 to July 7, 2005	July 5, 2005 9:00 A.M.	July 18, 2005	DepEd Region V Office, Rawis, Legazpi City

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting June 23, 2005 up to July 7, 2005 at the DepEd Region V Office, Rawis, Legazpi City upon submission of a letter of intent to the BAC Secretariat Office and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) to the Cashier's Office. The form of payment will either be in cash or by Cashier's/Manager's check. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. During the bid opening, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or their duly authorized representatives who choose to attend said proceedings at the address above.
7. The DepEd BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without any liability incurring to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ALICE Q. ENGAY**
Director III and BAC Chairman

(PDI--June 15 & 22, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref. No.: PB050427-EL0036

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE**, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Schedule	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
I	MOBILE PC	11 Units	P 1,375,000.00
II	MOBILE PC	1 Unit	P 125,000.00
III	DESKTOP PC	55 Units	P 4,675,000.00
IV	DESKTOP PC	2 Units	P 170,000.00
V	MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR	3 Units	P 540,000.00
VI	LCD MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR	1 Unit	P 250,000.00
VII	LASERJET PRINTER (STANDALONE)	1 Unit	P 35,000.00
VIII	LASERJET PRINTER (NETWORK)	8 Units	P 400,000.00
IX	INKJET PRINTER	15 Units	P 270,000.00
X	A3 INKJET PRINTER	1 Unit	P 25,000.00
XI	DOT MATRIX PRINTER	1 Unit	P 35,000.00
XII	MOBILE PRINTER	1 Unit	P 25,000.00
XIII	COLOR LASERJET PRINTER	1 Unit	P 60,000.00
XIV	SCANNER	9 Units	P 135,000.00
XV	FACSIMILE	4 Units	P 80,000.00
XVI	PC SERVER	1 Unit	P 500,000.00
XVII	MONITOR, 17"	3 Units	P 54,000.00
XVIII	UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY	4 Units	P 28,000.00
XIX	EXTERNAL FLOPPY DISK DRIVE	1 Piece	P 3,000.00
XX	CRYSTAL REPORT VERSION XI FPP	2 Units	P 79,200.00
XXI	LASERJET PRINTER	1 Unit	P 63,000.00

TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID: P 8,927,200.00

1. Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **June 7, 2005 to July 5, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **2:00 p.m. of July 6, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is declared non-working day, the new deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **June 24, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 15 & 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
Maritime Industry Authority
National Capital Region
5th Flr., Champ Bldg., Anda Circle, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

Re: Application for issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a tramping service for the carriage of petroleum products to any port in the Philippines with the use of M/T "TITANO", M/T "MALINAO" and M/T "TAMBORA" pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

WHITE GOLD MARINE SERVICES, INC.
Applicant

CASE NO. NCR-05-071

x————————————x

ORDER

This refers to the application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) filed by Applicant on 10 June 2005 to operate the M/T "TITANO", M/T "MALINAO" and M/T "TAMBORA" for the carriage of petroleum products to any port in the Philippines as follows:

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service to be offered
M/T "TITANO"	CoastwiseTrading	For the carriage of petroleum products
M/T "MALINAO"	Coastwise Trading	For the carriage of petroleum products
M/T "TAMBORA"	Coastwise Trading	For the carriage of petroleum products

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminals and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 30 June 2005 at 10:00 A.M. at the Domestic Shipping Services Division, 5th Floor, Champ Building, Anda Circle, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision, upon acceptance of such FOE and declaration that the case is submitted for decision.

WITNESS, The Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR., this 15th day of June 2005 at Manila, Philippines.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:

(Sgd.) ROBERTO C. ARCEO, CESO V
Director

IAP/NGG
Copy Furnished:
Applicant, 1422 S. Herrera St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

(PDI--June 22, 2005)

BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Maca-as, Tubigon, Bohol
Fax No. (038) 508-8095, Tel No. (038) 508-0084, 508-0085

INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 2005-04

The **BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BOHECO-I)** thru 5% reinvestment and general fund intends to procure various electrical materials for line construction and upgrading under its coverage area.

	Unit	Quantity
Lot 1 - CONDUCTORS		
1) Conductor, Bare, ACSR #2 AWG	Mtrs	50,000
2) Conductor, Bare, ACSR #336.4 MCM	Mtrs	26,000
Lot 2 - INSULATORS		
1) Insulator, Pin Type, Porcelain, Ansi Class 55-4 (big)	Pcs	1,000
Lot 3 - LINE HARDWARES		
1) Pin, Crossarm, Long Shank, 5/8" x 14-3/4" 7/8" Shank Diameter, 1" Thread Lead Head	Pcs	1,000
2) Pin, Pole Top, Channel, 1 "Thread Lead Head 25" Long	Pcs	800

Sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the above-mentioned materials will be received by BOHECO-I at its main office in Maca-as, Tubigon, Bohol on or before June 28, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at which time and place and said proposal would be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their representative who choose to attend.

The interested bidders may obtain information, secure list of bidding documents from BOHECO-I Main Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand and Two Hundred Pesos (Php 1,200.00).

(Sgd.) **CARLOS B. ITABLE**
General Manager

(PDI--June 22, 2005)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Hope Christian High School Alumni Association Inc. (HCHSAAI) will have an election of officers this coming June 24, 2005 (Friday), 3:00 PM at Hope Christian High School 1242 Benavidez St. (Youth Center).

Eligible to be voted into office are those alumni who were elected to the Council of Representatives during the General Assembly held last March 6, 2005. However, all alumni are invited to attend.

For details contact: Ms. Christine Sim / Ms. Christina Co Tel # 2519496 or Magdalena Ty 2440344 / 09179006918.

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

DR. CHARLES T. UY, M.D.

(June 12, 1928 – June 18, 2005)
UST College of Medicine Batch 1956

A loving and devoted husband to his wife, **HELEN**

Children : **CHARLENE, CATHERINE, CHRISTINE**
CHRISTOPHER and **CHRISTIAN**

Brothers : **Dr. Henry T. Uy; Uy Ching Sui (†)**
and Uy Yek Chong

Sisters : **Uy Chai Tin (†)**
Uy Siok Ha (†)
Uy Suy Min (†)
Uy Suy Peck
Uy Suy Pao
Norma Uy Kai
Elisa Uy Kai
Mary T. Uy

Brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces request prayers for his everlasting happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Grand Chapel I, Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road cor. C5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 23, 2005 at 11:00 AM at the Family Mausoleum of The Heritage Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Directors, Officers and Staff of

PILIPINAS BRONZE, INC.

extend their deepest sympathies to the family of:

DR. CHARLES T. UY, M.D.

Founder and Chairman Emeritus
UST College of Medicine Batch 1956

who passed away on Saturday, June 18 at the age of 77.

His beloved wife, **HELEN** and children **CHRISTOPHER, CHARLENE, CATHERINE, CHRISTINE** and **CHRISTIAN** request prayers for his everlasting joy in the company of angels and saints.

His remains lie in state at the Grand Chapel I, Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Memorial Park, Bayani Road cor. C5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 23, 2005, 11:00 a.m. at the Family Mausoleum of The Heritage Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Death Notices

ANTONIO A. CRUZ, SR.

Jan 19, 1944 – June 17, 2005
Joined his Creator at the age of 61.
His body lies in state at #6 Feria Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
Interment will be on Sunday, June 26, 2005 at the Barangka Cemetery, Marikina City.

AMELIA FRIAL SISON

March 28, 1917 –June 17, 2005
She lies in state at Mt. Carmel Church in Roxas City till today when she will be brought to the St. Martin of Tours Church in Dumalag, Capiz.
Interment will be on Saturday, June 25, 2005 at the Frial Mausoleum.

VICENTE L. MARCIA

Joined his Creator on June 19, 2005
His body lies in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Inc., Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 A.M. mass on June 23, 2005.

Our Dearly
Beloved Papa

P/Supt. Avelino Mabini Matundan

PNP (Ret.)

Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 18, 2005 at the age of 58.

He is survived by his wife **Rosario**; loving children **Rosevelle, George, Aileen** and **Rommel**, and **Rosalyn**, his one and only "apo" **Blue**.

His remains lie in state at Blk. 26 Lot 9 Ph. 1-A Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna.

Cremation will follow the 10 a.m. Mass on June 24, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Chapel (Guadalupe).

MESSAGE OF THANKS

For visiting us and being with us
in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages
of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express
compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigil...
For attending the masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our grief...
For all that you have done to console
our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.

From the Family of the late

ERWIN T. CORTEZ

Mass to be held on his 40th day
at Heritage Memorial Park, 3:30 p.m.,
Thursday, June 23, 2005.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN
MUNICIPALITY OF AMULUNG
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(2nd publication/posting)

The Local Government of Amulung thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites all interested and qualified suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement and delivery of the item mentioned below:

Name of Project : ONE (1) FARM TRACTOR
Briefing Description:
- One (1) FARM TRACTOR
- Engine Diesel
- Type Natural Aspirated
- Size of Tire
  - 14.9 x 24 front
  - 184 x 34 rear
- Trailing Harrow 20 x 24 HD
- Displow 4x26 Heavy Duty
- Drive: 4 wheel
- Cylinder: 4
- Horse Power: 90 HP
- Spareparts: should be available in the locality
- Performance: 1 Hr/ha 400 ha/season
- AMTEC-TESTED
- Spareparts: must be available within Region 02

Approved Budget for the Contract: P2,392,382.41

Prospective bidders should have experience in similar undertaking with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project item/project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/screening as well as the preliminary evaluation of bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post evaluation of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follow:

PR NO.	ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
2005-	Posting and Advertisement	June 17-July 1, 2005 – 4:30 pm
	Sale of Eligibility Documents	July 2-July 8, 2005 – 4:30 pm
	Pre-Bid Conference	July 21, 2005
	Submission and Opening of Bids	August 1, 2005 – 1:00 pm

The Local Government of Amulung reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) LUZMINDA L. MACASIO
Chairman

NOTED:

ATTY. NICANOR C. DE LEON
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–June 22 & 29, 2005)

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PURCHASING (082) 224-6392
Email address: dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph

INVITATION ON TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District hereby invites manufacturer/s and supplier/s to apply for eligibility and to bid, in accordance with I.R.R. of R.A 9184, for the supply and delivery of Brass Fittings.

PACKAGE I. Brass Copper to Copper for CTS P.E. Pipes (5 items)

Qty.	Description
1,300 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, ¾ "dia., Compression Type
430 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, 1 "dia., Compression Type
130 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, 1 ½ "dia., Compression Type
600 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, 2 "dia., Compression Type
5,600 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling with stopper, ¾ "dia., Compression Type

ABC: Php 3, 421, 240.00 Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

PACKAGE II. Brass Copper to Male Iron for CTS P.E. Pipes (3 items)

Qty.	Description
7,000 pcs.	Copper to Male Iron Pipe Thread Coupling, ¾ "dia., Compression Type
220 pcs.	Copper to Male Iron Pipe Thread Coupling, 1 ½" dia., Compression Type
250 pcs.	Copper to Male Iron Pipe Thread Coupling, 2" Compression Type

ABC: Php 1,279,020.00 Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

PACKAGE III. Brass Straight Meter Valve and Brass Tee for CTS P.E. Pipes (4 items)

Qty.	Description
4,280 pcs.	Straight Meter Valve with Lockwing, ¾"
20 pcs.	Straight Meter Valve with Lockwing, 1 ½"
150 pcs.	Brass Tee Coupling, ¾" dia. x ¾" dia., Compression Type (both ends & outlet side)
50 pcs.	Brass Tee Coupling, 1 "dia. x ¾" dia., Compression Type (both ends & outlet side)

ABC: Php1,204,250.00 Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

PACKAGE IV. Brass Corporation Stop for CTS P.E. Pipes (3 items)

Qty.	Description
2,420 pcs.	Corporation Stop, F700, ¾" dia., Compression Type
260 pcs.	Corporation Stop, F700, 1" dia., Compression Type
90 pcs.	Corporation Stop, F70, 2" dia Compression Type

ABC: Php 1,205,800.00 Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

To qualify to apply for eligibility and to bid, two (2) samples of each type of brass fittings shall be submitted on or before July 4, 2005 and must pass the testing and evaluation process. (Testing and evaluation shall include pressure testing and fitting of sample to existing service lines and fittings)

Package I
Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, ¾" dia., Compression Type
Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling with Stopper, ¾" dia., Compression Type
Package II
Copper to Male Iron Pipe Thread Coupling, 3/4" dia., Compression Type
Package III
Straight Meter Valve with Lockwing, ¾"
Brass Tee Coupling, ¾" dia. x ¾" dia.
Package IV
Corporation Stop, F700, 3/4" dia., Compression Type

Eligibility Requirements, Specification, details and bidding documents are available to interested applicants upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated per package from July 11-15, 2005 at the BAC Secretariat during its business hours.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Board Conference Room of DCWD Admin. Building on the following date: July 18, 2005, 9:00 A.M.

Submission and opening of sealed bids shall be at the same venue, which shall be on: July 29, 2005, 9:00 A.M. Brass-Fittings

Davao City Water District reserves the right to any or all bids, to waive any defect or formality therein, to assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of bids, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ALFONSO E. LAID
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–June 22 & 29, 2005)

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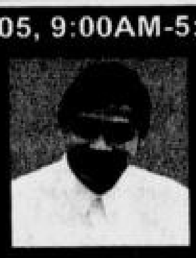

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RP presidential cars waiting to be resurrected

Quezon's parade car, Erap's limo, Marcos' wedding car, and Mike Arroyo's Maserati have something in common: They're still standing

By Tessa R. Salazar

(First of three parts)

SOME of the Philippines' most fascinating historical automotive pieces are still intact, although in a decrepit state, waiting for somebody with an overriding sense of history—and lots of moolah—to restore them back to their old glory days.

If today's rich and powerful consider the SUV as the ultimate status transport, dignitaries and former Philippine presidents a few decades ago held their heads high in limousines.

2 old black cars

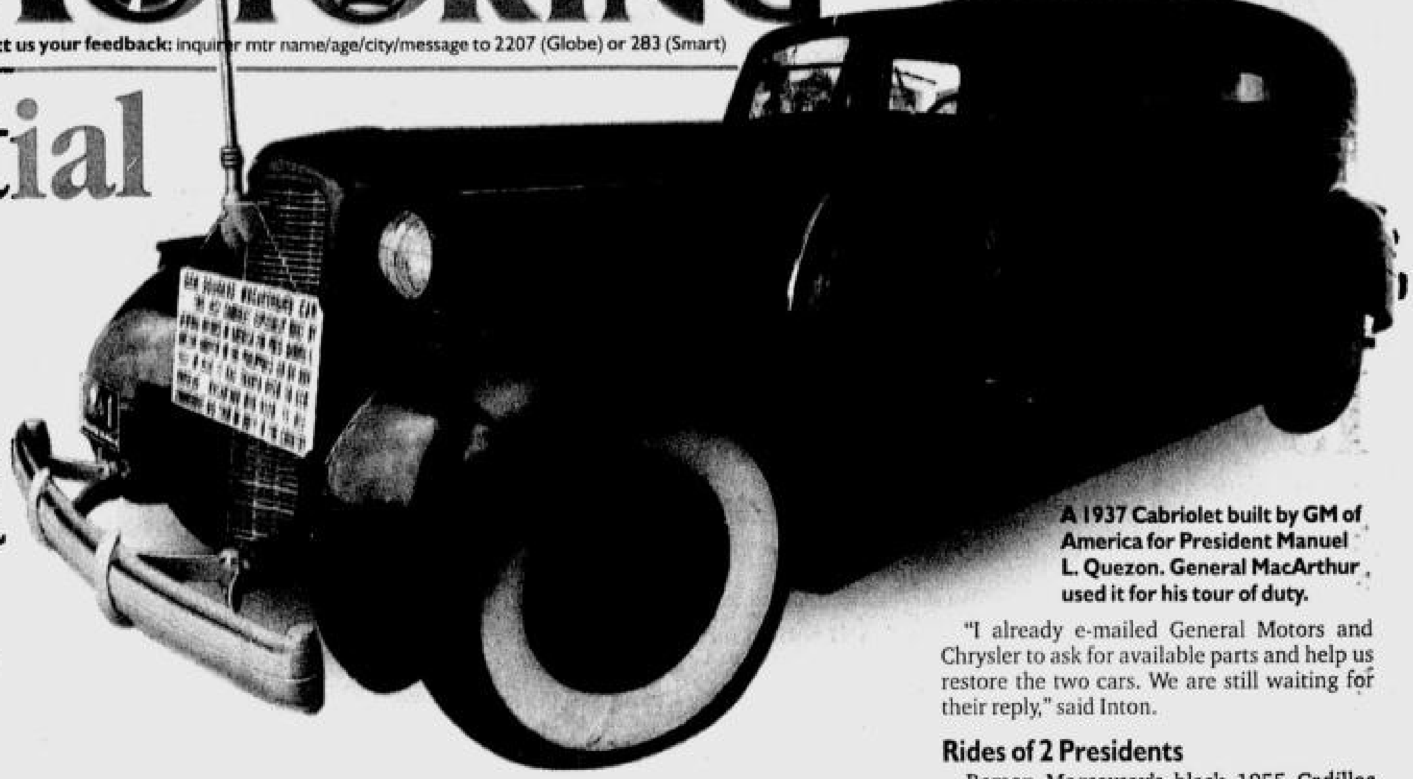
In front of the Quezon City Hall, visitors can easily notice two old black cars—a 1937 Cabriolet and a 1937 Chrysler Airflow Limousine.

The first was built by General Motors of America for President Manuel L. Quezon. The Cabriolet arrived here Nov. 4, 1937. In 1938, it was turned over to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who then used it all throughout his tour of duty in the Philippines.

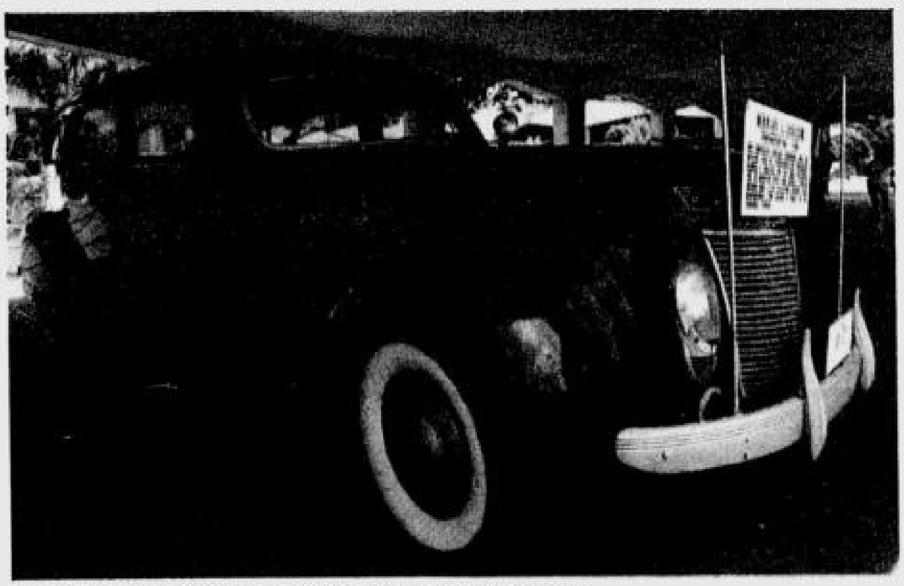
The 1937 Chrysler Limousine then became the official automobile of Commonwealth President Quezon. Little is known about what happened to this limo after Quezon's term. Available information indicates that vintage car collector Dan Irish got hold of the car and restored it in a span of 18 months.

The two cars used to be displayed in Corregidor, Bataan, until they were spotted by Quezon City councilor Antonio E. Inton. The National Historical Institute and the government of Quezon City had agreed that both cars would be displayed in the city hall premises and would later be transferred to the Quezon City Museum.

The Quezon cars still bear the original plate numbers. Only ropes around the perimeter protect the vehicles, and passersby are free to open the doors and have their pictures taken inside. Rust has noticeably started to creep in.



A 1937 Cabriolet built by GM of America for President Manuel L. Quezon. General MacArthur used it for his tour of duty.



A 1937 Chrysler Airflow, the official car of President Quezon

"I already e-mailed General Motors and Chrysler to ask for available parts and help us restore the two cars. We are still waiting for their reply," said Inton.

Rides of 2 Presidents

Ramon Magsaysay's black 1955 Cadillac Limousine, on the other hand, now rests at the Zambales ancestral home, while the Presidential car of Jose P. Laurel is at the Paco ancestral house in Manila.

"Laurel's car used to be displayed at the National Historical Institute on T.M. Kalaw, Manila," disclosed Julie Ilano of the Jose P. Laurel Foundation. She also said the NHI turned over the car to the Lyceum of the Philippines, and the school turned it over to the JPL Foundation. Ilano, however, could not recall the specific type or model of the car.

Being restored

A Mercedes-Benz 600 limousine, which served as Pope John Paul II's car during his visit to Bacolod, is now being restored by CATS Motors.

Former senator Quintin Paredes' Chrysler Imperia 1956 car is in a farm owned by broadcaster Cito Beltran's family in Lipa, Batangas. It is being restored for display in the next Manila Motor Show.

The same preparations are being made on a 1951 Chrysler Imperial Limousine, which former President Ferdinand Marcos and wife Imelda used as their wedding car in Baguio City, and Joseph Estrada's limousine, which he and Fernando Poe Jr. bought when both were still young actors.

All that Jazz: a 10,000-km review

CATCH MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

(First of two parts)

"THAT'S a girl's car," was the very first remark anyone ever made about my Honda Jazz. I'm sure it was not meant with any rancor, but it's hard to take that comment and not feel slighted or ever so emasculated, especially from a man who daily drives an Audi A4 1.8 Turbo.

"It's fuel efficient," was the only indignant retort I had, knowing that my friend's car, in comparison, drank gasoline like a college frat boy binges on kegs of draft. I wasn't even talking about when his turbo boosted.

The gravity of the situation then dawned upon me, I had just bought a car that comes in pretty pastel colors, like pink, mauve and mint, in Europe and Japan. There can be no denying a car's target market when they come painted as such. It was a girl's car alright and if owning one meant I chose a practical, visually pleasing, no nonsense vehicle, then I was willing to suffer the indignity to prove a point.

Love/hate relationship

This is where my love/hate relationship with my Jazz started: an experience that began with both excitement and dread. On one hand, I had just purchased a substantial piece of technology; a gasoline engine that boasted miserly mileage and emissions that would make fundamentalist tree huggers happy.

I also just turned my back on some of the "elemental truths" that governed my previous choice of daily driver like; adequate performance and predictable handling and impeccable build quality. I was sure the later was to follow, as this was a Honda, right? I wanted to know what the ownership of this car would bring: was it ultimately the right choice or did I make a dismal mistake?

Ten months and 10,000 kilometers later, the answer is a whole lot clearer.

I decidedly chose to downgrade when the Jazz was tasked to replace previous daily drive, a 1998 Subaru Legacy wagon. The Scooby wagon was not an exercise in common sense, even though no other car provided the same space, 4WD performance and size as any other in the market. These cars are difficult to maintain, and only a meticulous and dedicated owner can expect years of solid service from these workhorses.

Parts are few and far between and most times must be imported. This factor alone is what probably keeps the resale value of this car at dismal levels. What really hurt in the ownership of the 2.0-liter boxer four wagon was the fuel consumption. Driven with any hint gusto and I'd have to be prepared to skip lunch to pay for the gasoline use.

Impressed

This is where the 2005 Honda Jazz enters my story. Impressed by the Japanese domestic accolades that the car garnered, especially in a Toyota-dominated market and awards scene, the small Honda merited a genuine perusal. Could it replace the utility of the Legacy and would it be more practical in these petroleum challenged times?

Fuel efficiency has been phenomenal but never as fantastic as the 1,000++ kilometers on a single tank of gas that a petroleum company claims. Then again I've never had the opportunity to drive escorted, in the dead of night, on an relatively empty road to Bicol. I also have neither the logistic capacity (of a government-owned gasoline giant) nor the driving skill (of a Ramirez) to replicate such a feat.

Real world driving conditions and my constant use of 95+ octane fuel has given me an average of 10 kilometers per liter in typical Manila traffic and a recorded 16 kilometers per liter best during an out-of-town trip.

Fuel efficient

My worst recorded consumption was 7 kilometers per liter during the spell of dismal traffic last December. Those numbers are not eye-popping but they more than hint at fuel efficiency. Money has definitely been saved by this frugal little car and that, ladies and gentlemen, is a very good thing in my book.

Realistically, this efficiency comes with trade offs. People have come up to me in parking lots asking if the car is at all fast. This may be due to the fact that it's a Honda hatch and the boy racer dogma that states: "All Honda hatches are fast." This is the most laughable statement I've ever heard and those of you who've driven the stock 1.2-liter EG hatch can attest to this.

In a truth that is applicable to all locally released Honda hatchbacks: acceleration is anemic. Patience is a virtue well learned as you get the best acceleration out of the 1.3-liter engine and CVT transmission if you don't floor it. Torque peaks very early with this car, which is great for fuel efficiency but terrible for the "fast and furious" set.

Manic mashing of the accelerator is only going to use up more precious fuel and is completely devoid of the anticipated acceleration. Don't get me wrong, the car will reach 100 kph and will even probably hit 140 kph (not that I have personal knowledge of this capability), but it will take some time.

Despite the tame and unexciting performance of the CVT, it is the better of the two available gear boxes. Forget the stick if you can pay the small extra for the CVT. The manual transmission will earn you a doctorate in the Zen-like frame of mind that is needed to drive the car and give you a decent triceps workout at the same time. This is as you continually rake through the gears searching for the power that, you swear, was pointed out in the brochure by the pretty showroom salesperson.

(Next week: Part two of this default "long-term test." The author talks about suspension and chassis issues. Jazz and City owners will know where I'm headed with this topic. The question is, does Honda?)

Hiace part of Fab Four

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Al Fernandez, the former mayor of Dagupan City, is now being driven around on board a Previa, that elegantly handsome Toyota van. He has an assortment of polo shirts, *barong tagalog* and business suits inside it.

"It's a very comfortable ride," Buloy Al says of his Previa. "I feel rested each time I emerge from it."

Just about the most active and, therefore, mobile government official around, which makes him a saving grace in the trouble-plagued GMA administration, Buloy Al has been a car buff as far as I can remember. He's had a lot of SUVs, minivans and vans before, but I can see that he's deeply satisfied more than ever with his Previa.

* * *

He wasn't yet the mayor when we met nearly two decades ago. We struck it off right away. Why, because he loves basketball so much that times had been plentiful when we were together at the Ultra, then the new mecca of basketball after the PBA had, at one time, deserted Araneta Coliseum in favor of the Pasig hoop house in the '80s.

Once, Buloy Al and I were seatmates in a PAL jet on our way to San Francisco sometime in 1990. We did nothing but talk during the flight, sipping wine, gulping beer, or indulging in cognac to break the monotony.

Today, the friendship remains warm despite different career paths, particularly in Buloy Al's case. His being the Immigration commissioner has made him busier than ever, traveling the length of the archipelago most of the time, at times in a moment's notice. He hasn't invited me yet to one of his sorties but the minute he does, who am I to say no?

An honor, Buloy, an honor.

* * *

Buloy Al and I crossed paths again on Saturday, June 18 (the birthday of Beatle Paul McCartney and my late brother, Efren), during the wedding of Jun Jun Gevero of Cagayan de Oro City and Mai Mai Pineda of Pampanga at the Intercon.

It was a star-studded affair. Among the principal sponsors were Tom Garcia, a giant in the security agency business, and Rico Agcaoili, the NGAP director who is president of the Baguio Country Club. Of course, Theody Pascual, a top immigration official at Naia who is a golf buddy of mine, was also there—Jun Jun being his buddy for years.

Although I had to do an "eat-and-run" as I had to attend to another pressing engagement that day, the brief moment that I had with Buloy Al during the wedding reception was more than enough to unravel his newest desire: "I seem to like the Fortuner."

Oh, well, if truth be told anew, the queue for the Fortuner is up to November.

If I know Buloy Al, he will fall in line himself.

Now if someone will give way, I guarantee him he'll not regret having done that.

* * *

Speaking of the Fortuner, the hottest selling compact SUV is but one of three Toyota projects under the IMV (Innovative Multi-purpose Vehicle) to include Innova and Hi-Lux.

A fourth Toyota babe, the Hiace is now on display at Toyota dealerships nationwide, according to Elijah Marcial, the tireless leadoff batter of Danny Isla and Ariel de Jesus.

The new Hiace has a rugged frame that is built to carry full load of passengers or cargo. The latest computer-aided engineering (CAE) technique was used to determine and analyze potential sources of noise and vibration, resulting to a torsional rigidity that is 40 percent higher than that of the current model. In addition to the rigid, rust-resistant body, the Hiace is structured in a way that makes daily checks and maintenance easier, keeping the "cost-performance ratio amazingly low," said Elijah.

Likewise, Elijah said: "The new Hiace incorporates multireflector headlamps that throw a more effective light pattern. Nighttime driving feels safer due to the bright light patterns either high or low beams."

The new Hiace has been initially offered at P1,048,000. The next variant is priced just slightly higher.

Not bad for a new Toyota van powered by a 2KD-FTV, 2.5-liter turbocharged diesel engine with advanced common rail fuel supply system that provides the torque that a commercial vehicle requires. Unlike conventional injection systems, the common rail system makes sure that the proper air-fuel mixture reaches each cylinder for injection, and along with turbocharging, achieves powerful torque of 260 Nm per 1,600 to 2,400 rpm, maximum output of 102Ps/3,600 rpm. This makes the Hiace commuter the most powerful van in its class, increasing its capacity in transporting even heavier loads.

Even as the Hiace is not part of the IMV project, I guess Toyota will not mind it if I say Hiace should be aligned with Fortuner, Innova and Hi-Lux to make it Toyota's Fab Four this year? Meaning, Hiace can be the "Pete Best" until a "Ringo Starr" is found.

Right Danny "Sir John" Isla?

* * *

NLEX NOTES. The P20-billion investment by the Manila North Tollways Corp. to make the North Luzon Expressway a world-class freeway is designed to jumpstart investment thrusts at Clark and Subic, not to mention targeted expansions in business and industry that has long evaded Central and Northern Luzon. Already, motorists continue to feel that they consume less fuel, brake fluid, and incur far less tire wear and resulting vehicle maintenance. Motorists also now notice that the NLE's Operations and Management Center utilizes new state-of-the-art technology for monitoring, communications, security, electronic and manual toll collection, motorists' roadside assistance and variable message signs necessary to make travel smooth and and safe 24 hours a day.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Because today is the birthday of Pareng Joven Florido of Calauag, Quezon, he will join Pareng Louie Visorde, yesterday's celebrator himself, in saying: "Let's drink today and be merry, for we will not drive anyway." Cheers!

SHARING common design traits with the D-Max pickup, the Alterra carries more refinements inside and out.

Isuzu tests SUV market with Alterra

By Charles E. Buban

WITH ITS latest sport utility vehicle (SUV), Isuzu Philippines Corp. is taking the opportunity to create a product that has all of the fundamentals so that it can be competitive in a marketplace that has more than its share of contenders.

Alterra, Isuzu's new mid-sized SUV, is being positioned by IPC as a worthy successor of its venerable Trooper, and in fact, categorized it as a full-size to go head-to-head against the likes of Chevrolet Trailblazer, Mitsubishi Pajero, Nissan Patrol and the Toyota Prado.

"With the Alterra, we have combined the convenience of multipurpose function, rugged sport-utility performance, a spacious seven-seat interior and passenger comfort and luxury," says IPC public relations manager Timmy Naval.

Although the Alterra and the D-Max share some common design traits (front fascia, dashboard) as well as similar chassis and mechanical specifications, IPC assures the Alterra carries more refinements than its pickup cousin.

Sets new standards

"Definitely, this sports recreational vehicle—as we would like to call it—sets new standards in Isuzu ride and handling. IPC aimed to make the Alterra more enjoyable for highway use than the typical SUV but still maintain its capabilities for light off-road use," says Naval.

The Alterra is powered by a third generation double overhead cam, common rail, direct-injection diesel engine that promises more fuel efficiency, as well as less engine noise, vibration and toxic emissions from its predecessors.

Complementing these features, the Alterra is equipped with an independent double wishbones (with torsion bars) and gas-sealed, twin-tube multi-piston shock absorbers at the front while the rear have Flex Ride leaf springs in order to create a much smoother ride.

"The 4JJ-1 I-TEQ power plant also features an electronically controlled emission system that complies with Euro-3 emission regulations," adds Naval.

Entertainment system

Another major selling point of the Alterra is its "surround entertainment system" that features (for the higher-end variants) 11 speakers with tweeters, subwoofer and amplifier.

This more expensive variant also offers a DVD head unit that boasts of a 5.1-channel digital decoder that can play DVD, VCD, CD, MP3, WMA and CD-R formats.

Standard safety package includes antibrake locking system with electronic brake force distribution and gravity sensors, keyless entry with antitheft, child proof-locks and backup sensors.

Price of the Alterra starts at P1.389 million (for the manual 4x2 monotone variant), which goes up to P1.489 million for the DVD-equipped automatic 4x2 (Omega Pearl White) variant.

On the road in Ottawa

2005 CHEVROLET Impala

OTTAWA, Ontario—To attend the graduation of my daughter Andrea from Alconquin College at the World Exchange Plaza in Kanata, a suburb outside Ottawa's city limits, I decided to rent a car.

After canvassing the rates of various car rental companies by telephone, I chose Hertz since one of its branches was located within walking distance from the bed-and-breakfast inn where I was staying. Renting a car here requires picking up the car yourself and then returning it to the same garage. You get the car with a full tank and must return it also with a full tank.

The rental for one day of a medium-sized car with a 200 km mileage limit, taxes and full insurance coverage cost me 89.55 Canadian dollars or CAD (Philippine peso 4,010 at PhP44.78 per CAD 1.00). The only prerequisites for renting a car are a credit card and a valid driver's license. In Ontario, a foreign driver's license is acceptable if you do not continue driving for more than 60 days.

The Impala

In the medium-size rental car category, I was offered a Chevrolet Impala, a Nissan Altima or a Toyota Corolla (?!!) Since this is North America, the American car that happened to be the largest of the three was the obvious choice. Quite a few of the taxicabs here are Impalas, so I figured that the Impala is a reliable car. And there were no misgivings about that when we reached the expressway, where the 100 kilometer per hour speed limit is generally disregarded.

With Andrea's boy friend Karl acting as navigator, the Impala blended in smoothly with traffic flow on the expressway, at times hitting 150 kph whenever necessary to overtake. The nice thing about driving on a freeway in Canada—or the United States, for that matter—in a car with the size and the horsepower of an Impala is that you can drive fast effortlessly and comfortably without feeling guilty about it.

After the graduation rites, when we returned to the city limits to run some errands, see a movie and have dinner, I discovered that the all-day parking fee on an open parking lot is CAD10 and CAD 6 for the first three hours in basement parking. I thought that the Impala is longer than other medium-sized cars but when I parked it beside a Volkswagen Jetta, it was the same length as the latter.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

Price of gas

The trip to Kanata and driving in and around the capital city of Canada pushed the Impala's fuel needle down to three-quarters full. So before dining at Don Alfonso's Spanish restaurant on Bank Street, we refilled it with 14.3 liters of regular gas which cost CAD 12.05 (PhP539.59). Canadians are lucky in that gas does not have the 15 percent tax (7 percent government sales tax and 8 percent provincial sales tax) that is imposed on all consumer goods and services.

Foreign visitors are lucky, too, in that they can drive for 60 days without having to get an Ontario driver's license. Getting one is a long, tedious process for first-timers. There are 12 different kinds of driver's licenses in Ontario ranging from A to G and M1 and M2 for motorcycles. Each license qualifies you to drive a different type of vehicle and must match the type of vehicle you are driving.

Classes A, B, C, D, E and F licenses are required to drive a big truck, trailer or bus. To drive a car, van or small truck, you need a Class G license. And you must have a Class G license before you can apply for any other type of license.

Class G

Class G vehicles refer to any combination of vehicle (car, van or small truck) and towed vehicle up to 11,000 kg provided the towed vehicle is not over 4,500 kg. Compare these restrictions to Manila, where anyone who holds a professional driver's license is allowed to drive a bus, a container van or a 10-wheeler truck even without proper training or experience in driving large, heavily loaded vehicles.

Ontario has a graduated licensing system that new drivers applying for their first car of motorcycle license must enter. Level One (Class G1) takes 12 months to complete unless you are a graduate from an approved driving school. You can then reduce the time spent in Class G1 by four months and are eligible for a lower insurance rate.

Basic rules

G1 drivers may drive Class G vehicles when accompanied by a fully licensed driver with at least four years of driving experience. Class G1 drivers must not drive between midnight and 5 a.m., nor on expressways or roads with posted speed limits exceeding 80 kph unless accompanied by a driving instructor licensed in Ontario. To move to Class G2, a G1 driver has to pass a road test of his/her driving skills.

Whether G1 or G2, drivers must follow two basic rules: zero blood alcohol level, so he must not drive if he has been drinking. The second basic rule is that each person in the car must wear a working seat belt. Class G2 or Level Two lasts for 12 months after which the student driver must pass a test of driving skills in order to qualify for full license privileges, which is known as a Class G license.

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.)

Best deals from Accord V6

HONDA marks another successful year by bagging the 2004 Car of the Year award and the distinction of Best Executive Sedan of the Year for the Accord V6 in the first Car of the Year Awards recently conducted by the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi).

With its fresher, more aggressive style, this seventh generation Accord has been remarkably enhanced to suit today's technology-oriented lifestyle. From the exterior to the interior, the engine and down to the very last detail, Honda radically improved the Accord V6 and incorporated innovations that made this executive sedan more powerful in design and performance like never before.

The new Accord's bigger and more angular headlights make it an instant head turner, along with a roomier interior design that opens up to a variety of creature comforts like leather upholstery, dual-zone automatic climate controls, six-disc in-dash CD changer with control and six speakers, and an engaging new dash layout.

With its groundbreaking features, the Accord V6 bested all the other automobiles in its class in areas of performance, ergonomics, comfort, space and overall value, as evaluated by the country's top motoring and motoring-related journalists.

In celebration of this milestone, Honda makes it easier for you to own the Philippines' first Car of the Year.

Now, you can get the Accord V6 with Honda's zero-interest plans or with low down or monthly payments.

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GOODYEAR BACKS TRS ALL THE WAY Goodyear Tires Philippines and Tuason Racing School renew their partnership for 2005 and 2006 activities. Finalizing the agreement are Goodyear Philippines president Dave Morin, right; TRC president JP Tuason, center; and Goodyear Philippines general marketing director Charoen Chaipetcharatn.

Mitsubishi Motors Expo ongoing at Glorieta

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines is holding an exclusive Mitsubishi motorshow at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City, until June 28. Dubbed as the Mitsubishi Motors Expo 2005, MMPC is showcasing its full passenger car and light commercial vehicle models in the 9-day event.

Apart from its current models, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines is also providing a sneak preview of upcoming models.

"This motorshow is something to look forward to as we will provide the public a preview of two exciting new models which we are planning to introduce very soon," said Froilan Dytianquin, assistant vice president for marketing of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines.

Model lineup

"We are planning to introduce a new full-size passenger car model and an additional SUV to complement our model lineup, and by this Mitsubishi Motors Expo the public can get a glimpse of these new vehicles," Dytianquin added.

Apart from the two new models, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines will also display the Lancer Evolution WRC model which participated in several World Rally Championship stages, as well as accessorized models such as the Mitsubishi Grandis, Montero Sport, Pajero, Adventure, Lancer, Outlander and Strada.

In addition, a Mitsubishi Motors Genuine Parts and Ralliart corner are also available for those who want to purchase Mitsubishi genuine parts and accessories or Ralliart apparel and accessories which will be sold at special marked down prices.

Financing

In a tie-up with PSBank, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines is also providing the financing requirements of customers, in case they decide to purchase vehicles at the motorshow. PSBank is providing on the spot approvals and low interest rates during the event.

This weekend, fun filled activities await the Mitsubishi Motors Expo patrons, as MMPC will carry out exciting games and a "Draw Your Adventure" competition for kids.

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One (1) winner of MYTXTALARM
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KIA PICANTO
Ten (10) winners of NOKIA 2650
Ten (10) winners of 53.34 cm TCL TV
3rd RAFFLE DRAW
KIA PICANTO
Twenty (20) winners of SONY ERICSSON T230
Six (6) winners of 53.34 cm TCL TV
Ten (10) winners of BLADE ASIA GIFTCARD

	Deadline of Submission of Entries	Draw Dates
1st Draw	August 12, 2005, 2PM	August 19, 2005
2nd Draw	December 13, 2005, 2PM	December 20, 2005
3rd Draw	April 20, 2006, 2PM	April 27, 2006

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1030 Series of 2005
For every referral, the active referring AAP member will be given one (1) raffle coupon. The coupon will only be issued upon the referred party's payment of membership fee. The AAP member shall fill up the raffle coupon with his/her name, address, telephone no., membership I.D. no., affix his/her signature and the name of the referred party and drop in drop boxes located at the AAP offices nationwide
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BUSINESS

RP may soon exit IMF program

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES will soon exit the post-program monitoring program of the International Monetary Fund.

A source from the government's economic team yesterday said that the IMF, which evaluates the country's economic performance twice a year, had indicated that the PPM was "drawing to a close."

One reason was that the country's remaining debt with the IMF had fallen to a historic low of just 41 percent of the quota.

The quota determines a country's maximum financial commitment to the IMF and its voting power. It also has a bearing on access to IMF financing.

The Philippines' outstanding debts to the IMF has been falling below the country's quota, or contribution as a shareholder in the past few years. But it has chosen to remain under the PPM.

Countries whose borrowings exceed the quota with the IMF are obliged to stay under the post-program monitoring program.

The official said, however, that the IMF had yet to formalize its intent to graduate the Philippines from the monitoring program.

If not for the current political crisis now weighing down on the peso and the equity markets, the source said the exit could even happen sooner.

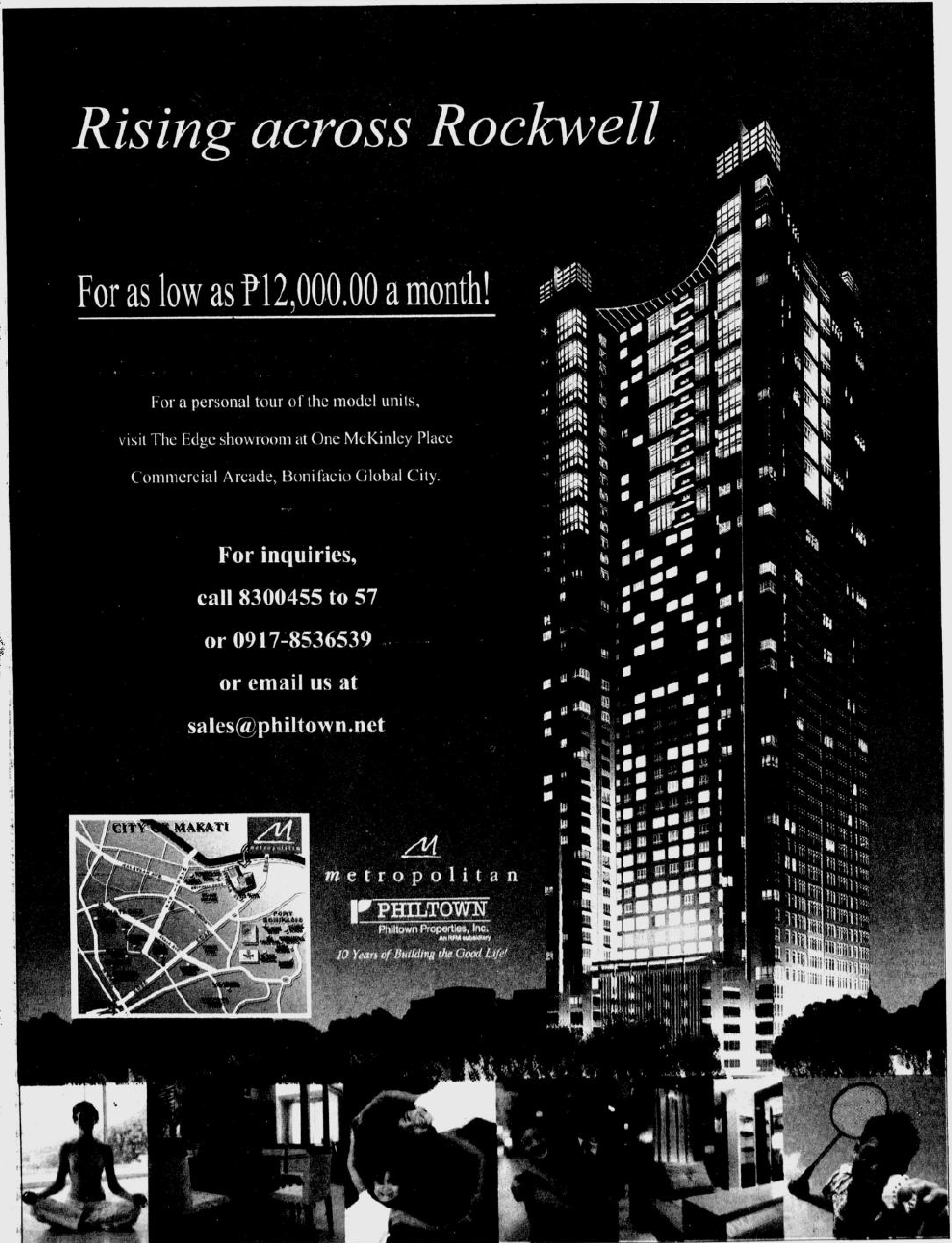
Although a third-party seal of good housekeeping like that from the IMF is highly valued by the government, a complete exit from the IMF has always been aspired for as proof of confidence in the country's economic stability.

With the debt-to-quota ratio falling to record lows, and the passage of the landmark value added tax reform law, the official said the Philippines had a better chance of exiting from the PPM.

"It's a mutual decision. We have to show that we're prepared to do it alone and can implement reforms that are critical," the official said.

A Washington-based IMF mission, which has been in town for the past two weeks as part of regular consultations with the government's economic team, is set to conduct a briefing on its latest assessment tonight.

The Philippines has "graduated" from the last funding program with the IMF in 2001, but has remained under the IMF's close supervision since then.



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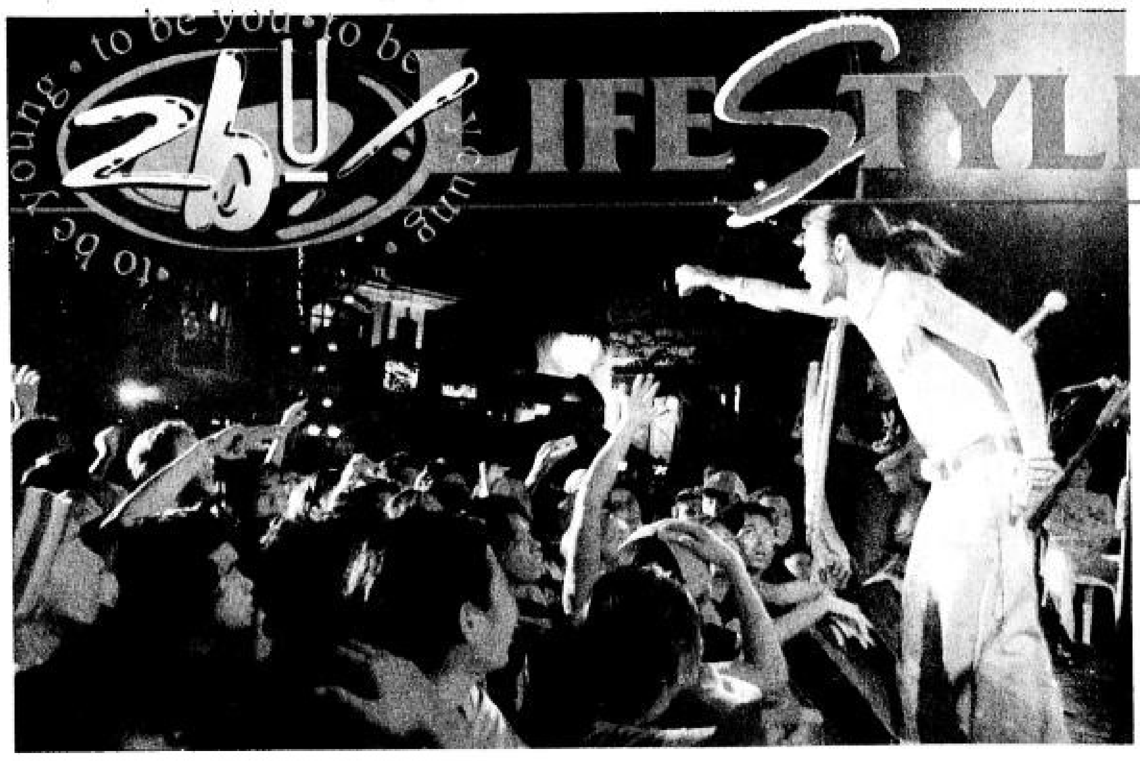


KARL ROY with Indio I on the World/Reggae/Ska stage

RAFFY LERMA

RICCI of Mojofly with Franco Mabanta

The energy never wavered as over 150 bands kept the night going in true Fête style

And the musique played on

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Mari Arquiza

"THIS IS the Mardi Gras of all Mardi Gras of music."—Wolfmann.

Indeed, the 2005 Fête de la Musique was the rocking party everyone expected it to be. With over 150 bands playing in seven different stages, the energy never wavered as artists after artists kept the night going in true Fête style. Strangely enough, it wasn't all because of the alcohol.

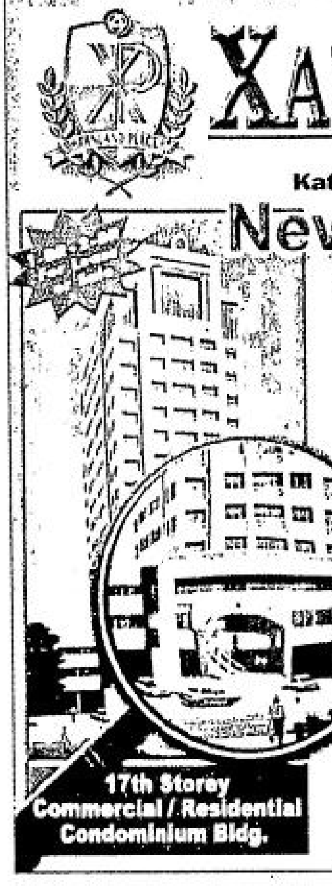
From the small gathering in Ayala Avenue that was the 1994 Fête de la Musique, the event has now grown to be one of the most-awaited music gatherings in the metropolis. "This is the one gig that I do not want to miss every year. *Ma*-miss *ko na* Pulp Summer Slam or NU Rock Awards, *'wag lang* Fête. There's a feeling of being left out if you don't get to play. *Kasi kahit hindi ka tutugtog, pupunta ka dito,*" said Jason Caballa, guitarist for the indie band, Twisted Halo.

"It's sort of a privilege to be part of the biggest show of the year. It's fun. You get to share the stage with the best musicians in the country. *Makita mo lang name mo sa* line-up, *nakakakilig na,*" added Sugarfree vocalist Ebe Dancel.

Crowded as Mordor

This year's edition of the Fête was a great comeback from the previous year's washout. Held at Libis last year, the performances at the outdoor stages were canceled due to rain. Also, the uncooperative weather caused unfortunate injuries to some performers, namely members of the spoken-word jazz outfit, Radioactive

AND THE MUSIQUE/ C2



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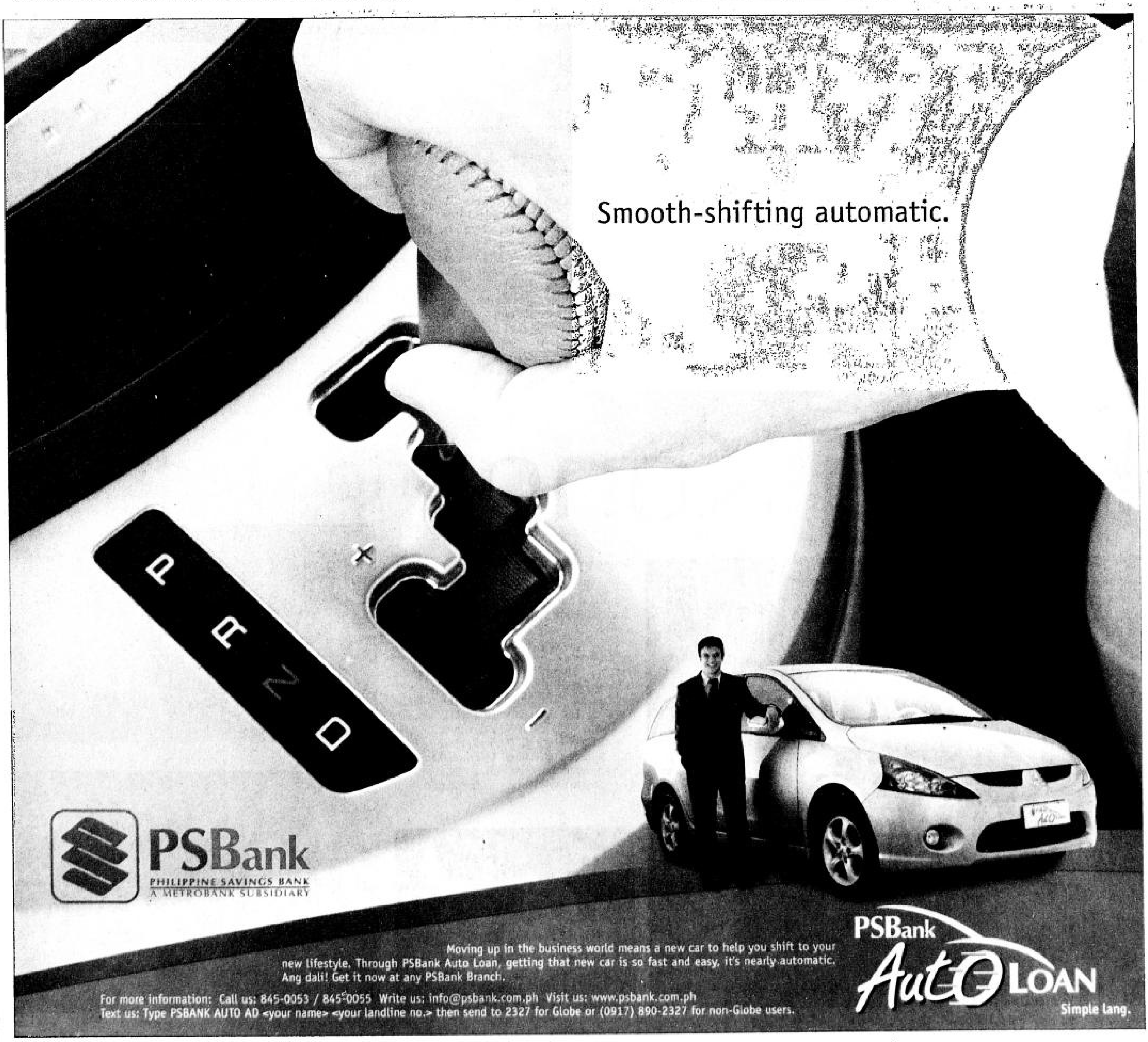

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And the musique played on

COOKY Chua

From page C1

Sago Project.

The venue, which stretched from El Pueblo to the Podium parking lot, was packed from 9 p.m. onwards, making it hard to do the rounds of all genres. The congestion was most severe in the rock stage, which became crowded as popular bands took on the stage. The number of people hardly decreased even at around 4 a.m., as the main stage, which was the last remaining stage to have performers, had people spilling out into the streets.

Once again, Cynthia Alexander officially opened the festivities at 9 p.m. at the Main Stage located at the Nagomi Parking Lot. However, the party had been raging on since 4 p.m., with the crowd piling up as the night progressed. "*Ang daming tao. Parang* they just opened the gates of Mordor," quipped Wolfmann, who played the Electronica stage.

Controlled chaos

The opening ceremonies seemed to usher in the controlled chaos that is characteristic of the Fête. At least to the rock stage, that is. Aside from the usual slew of shirtless moshers and water bottle projectiles, the rock show had a new thing this year. In the tradition of shameless European soccer fans, a few members of the mosh pit went on stage and stripped down to their birthday suits.

The other venues were just as entertaining, only without the nudity. With the diversity and sheer number of the performers, it wasn't hard to find an artist you liked. You could be watching Johnny Alegre one moment then Greyhoundz the next. The Fête is definitely the time of year to experiment with one's musical taste. "For most people, *tsip nila pag banda, puro rock lang*. They should know there's something else out there," explained Chicosci frontman Miggy Chavez.

The 2005 Fête de la Musique was presented by Alliance Française de Manille and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Sponsors included San Miguel Beer, Smart Telecommunications, Behringer, Discovery Suites and Pony Footwear.

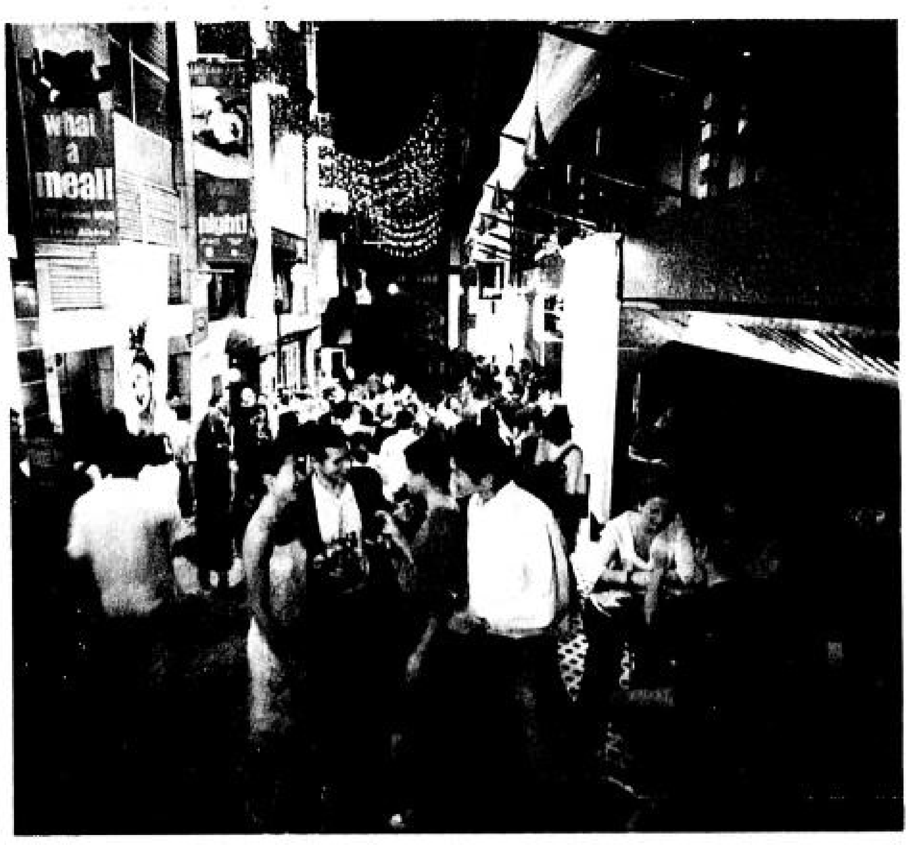
CHAMP of Hale lavish

Whoops!

WE forgot to give a huge shout-out to these wonderful establishments at the LRI Business Plaza last week for giving us permission to shoot in their uber cool shops for the Fete 2005 feature (no, it wasn't a press release, it was a FEATURE):

Gallery Big, tel. 8954516; Galerie Astra, tel. 8903988; Imaje Designs, Inc., tel. 8978645; Red Designs-Fine Furniture & Carpets, tel. 8952560; Scandinavia Trend, tel. 8905588, and Berde Plants, Inc., tel. 8903775. Visit the LRI Business Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City.

Hong Kong shop fest kick



LAN Kwai Fong

From page C4

cially created for visitors holding the passport to special offers, available at the Hong Kong Tourism Board Visitor Information & Services Center.

HKTB will also host the 2005 International Arts Carnival, 2005 World Children's Choir Festival, Hong Kong Fashion Week for Spring/Summer 2006, Hong Kong Dizi & Xiao Festival, "The Emperor and the Nightingale" by HK Ballet, Ocean Park Polynesian Summer Splash, 2005 Hong Kong International Band Festival, 2005 Hong Kong Book Fair, Manchester United Cup and Lan Kwai Fong Summer Beer Festival.

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LADIES' Market, Mongkok

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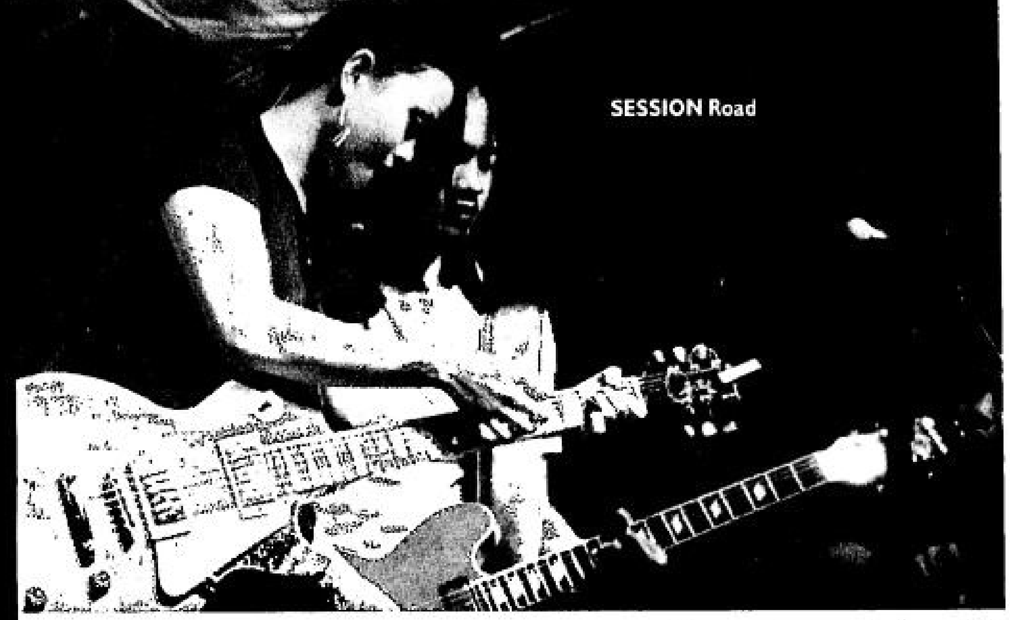
JUAN Pablo Dream



SESSION Road

the girls with attention.

SPECIAL THANKS MAE COLLADO OF UCC COFFEE

Win a date with Hale winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Janezza Ayaton and JC Lee for coming out on top of the Win a Date with Hale contest. The girls; who won after writing a 12-line poem professing their admiration for the band, got a chance to have dinner at UCC Coffee during the Fête de la Musique with the chart-topping group.

"As fans, *mahirap sila maabot. Sinulat ko lang* what it was like being their fan," said the 22-year-old Lee. "We just wanted to meet them so we would know what they were like," added Ayaton.

The band, especially their vocalist, Champ Lui-Pio was psyched to meet their big fans. "It's a big motivation for us that we affect people's lives." he said. *Christian B. Bautista*

ks off June 25

Shopaholics, hear this!

ARE you gutsy, determined, focused and willing to give your all to prove that Pinoys are unmatched in the shopping arena?

Do you have what it takes to be the Philippine representative to the Hong Kong Tourism Board's Shopper of the Year contest?

If you answered yes to the questions posed above, then move fast and rack your brains for the wackiest and most creative answer to the question, "Why should I be the Philippine representative to the Shopper of the Year promo in Hong Kong?"

All brave and fearless Pinoy shopaholics, 18 and above, with Philippine passport, must send in their answers along with a fave photo of a shopping moment (yes, that's you caught on film in wild shopping abandon) and their contact information (name, address and phone number) via e-mail to hkshoppingfest@perceptions-inc.com by 11:59 p.m. of July 1, Friday.

From the entries, five lucky Pinoys will get the chance to outsmart, outwit and outshop each other on an all-out, no-holds-barred local shopping competition that will prove, once and for all, the chosen one who eats, lives and breathes shopping.

Entries will be judged based on the following criteria: creativity and uniqueness (30 percent), content (30 percent), composition (20 percent) and impact (20 percent).

The lucky winner will walk away with a four-day, three-night trip to Hong Kong for two to participate in the 2005 Shopper of the Year contest, including return flight tickets and hotel accommodation, courtesy of the Hong Kong Tourism Board.

The 2005 Shopper of the Year contest requires each team to purchase one item from each of the four shopping themes, which are Fashion and Beauty, Jewelry and Watches, Consumer Electronics, and Chinese Traditions. Each team will also be given a digital camera to capture their shopping moments, and the newly introduced Photo Award will be given to the best team.

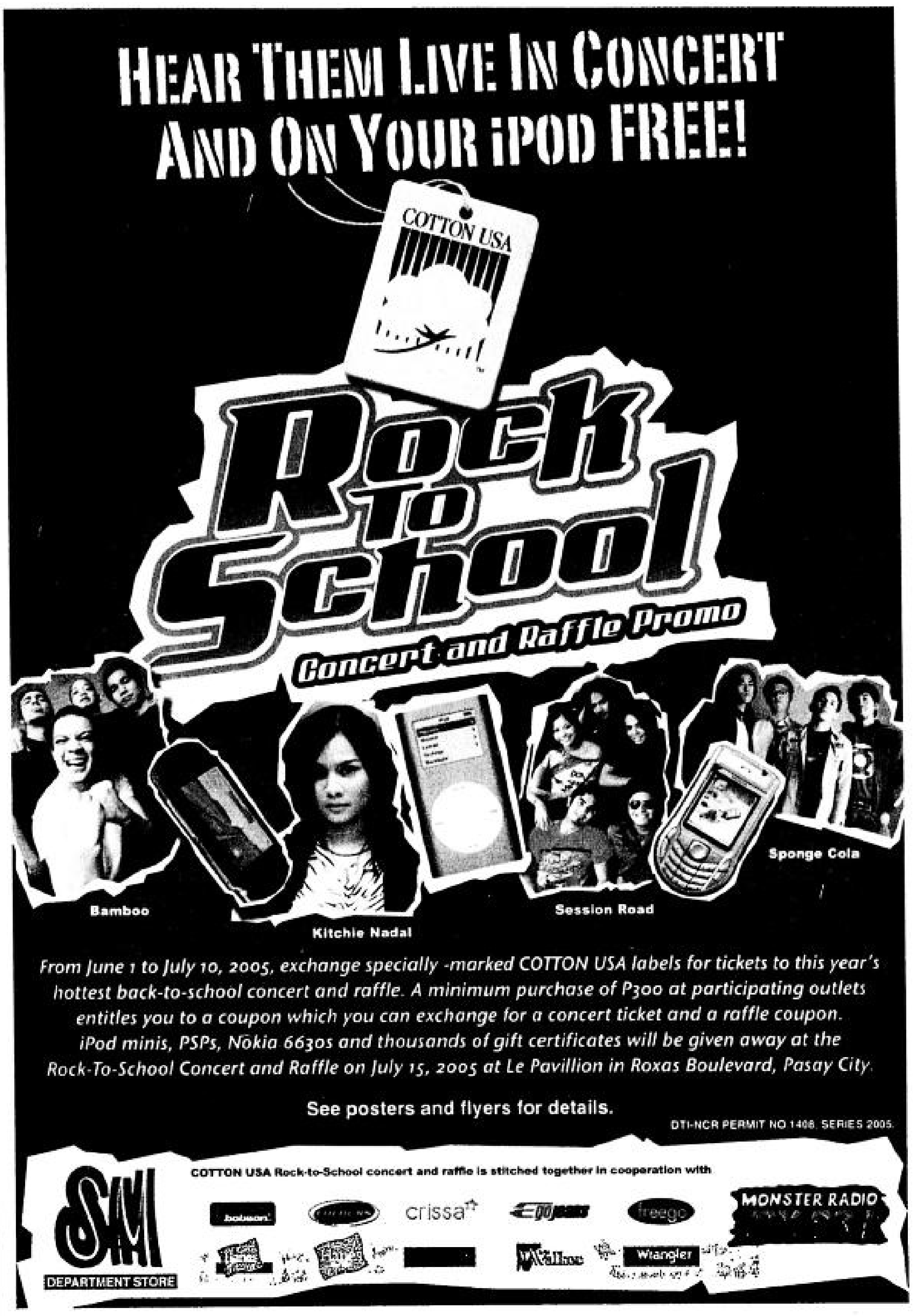
Now are you guys ready for this? What do you want to take home to 'Pinas if you win the grand prize in Hong Kong?

Everything that your shopper's heart desires! Round-trip tickets from Cathay Pacific, a two-night stay in a Grand Deluxe Harbour view suite, a helitour of Hong Kong, a Samsung Notebook and many more cool and exciting prizes await the lucky Shopper of the Year winner in Hong Kong.

So if shopping genuinely runs in your blood, expend all that furious energy and send in your answers now! Don't forget your photos, too!

Good luck and hail to Pinoy shoppers everywhere!

Announcement of the Philippine representative to the Shopper of the Year Contest will be on July 13,



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See posters and flyers for details.

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Hong Kong shop fest kicks off June 25

THE 2005 Hong Kong Shopping Festival will be held on June 25-Aug. 31.

Organized by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), the festival highlights four shopping themes: world-class fashion and beauty brands, top-of-the-line watch and jewelry products, cutting-edge electronics and unique Chinese traditions.

From high-end international fashion to funky independent labels, Hong Kong offers a wide array of fashion and beauty products. It is also a great place to buy watches and jewelry as well as digital and other electronic products.

Also featured are Chinese traditional goods such as arts and crafts, antiques, teas, dried seafood, tonic foods and more.

During the festival, shops and restaurants will stay open until 10 p.m. or even later. Meanwhile, night markets such as Ladies' Market, Temple Street and Stanley Market will offer value-for-money items.

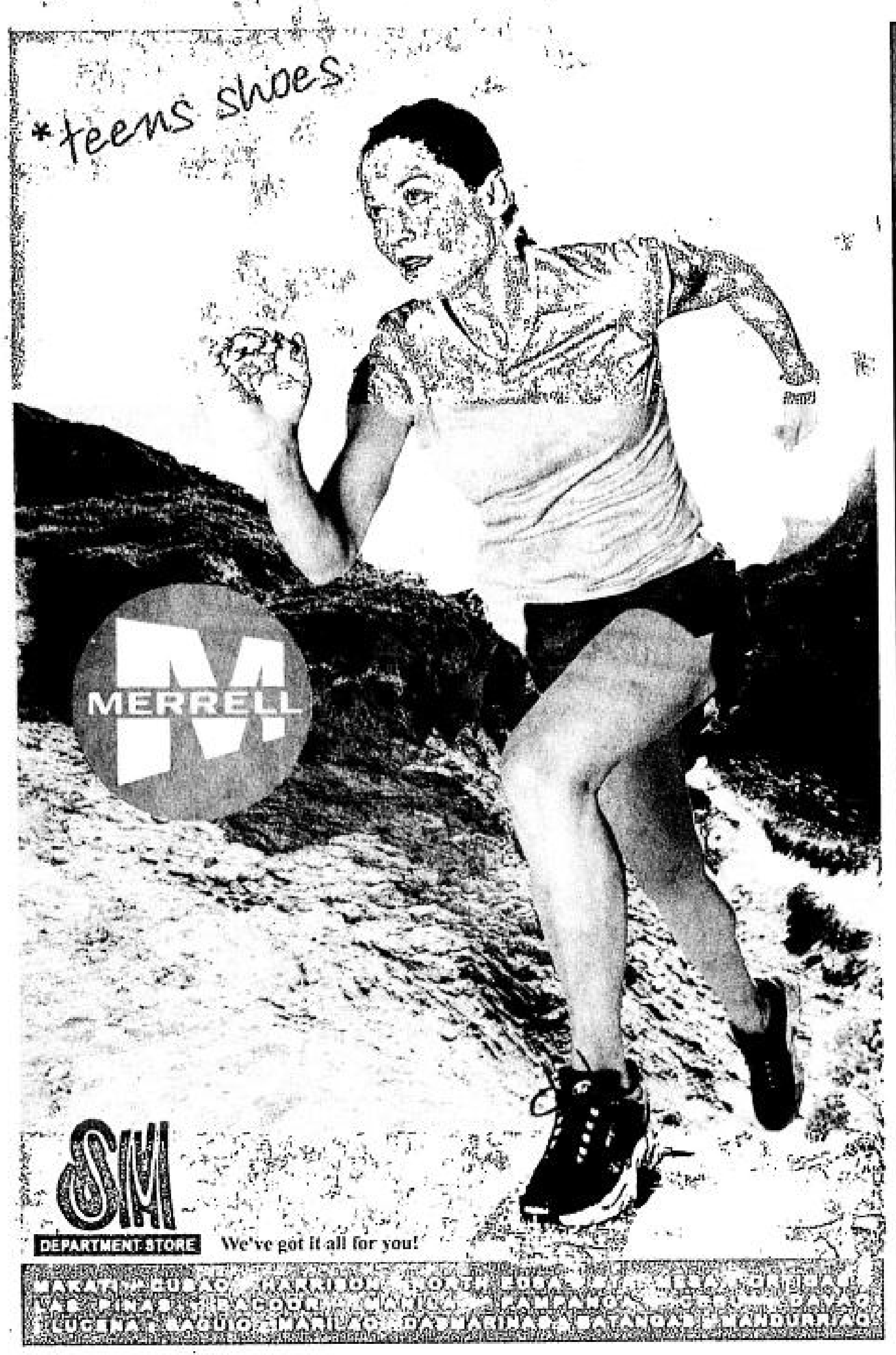
Night visitors who yearn for a cup, a drink, or a hot meal after a long day of shopping may try the international food promotions in popular food districts such as Lan Kwai Fong, Knutsford Terrace, Knutsford Steps, Canton Road, Ashley Road and Hillwood Road.

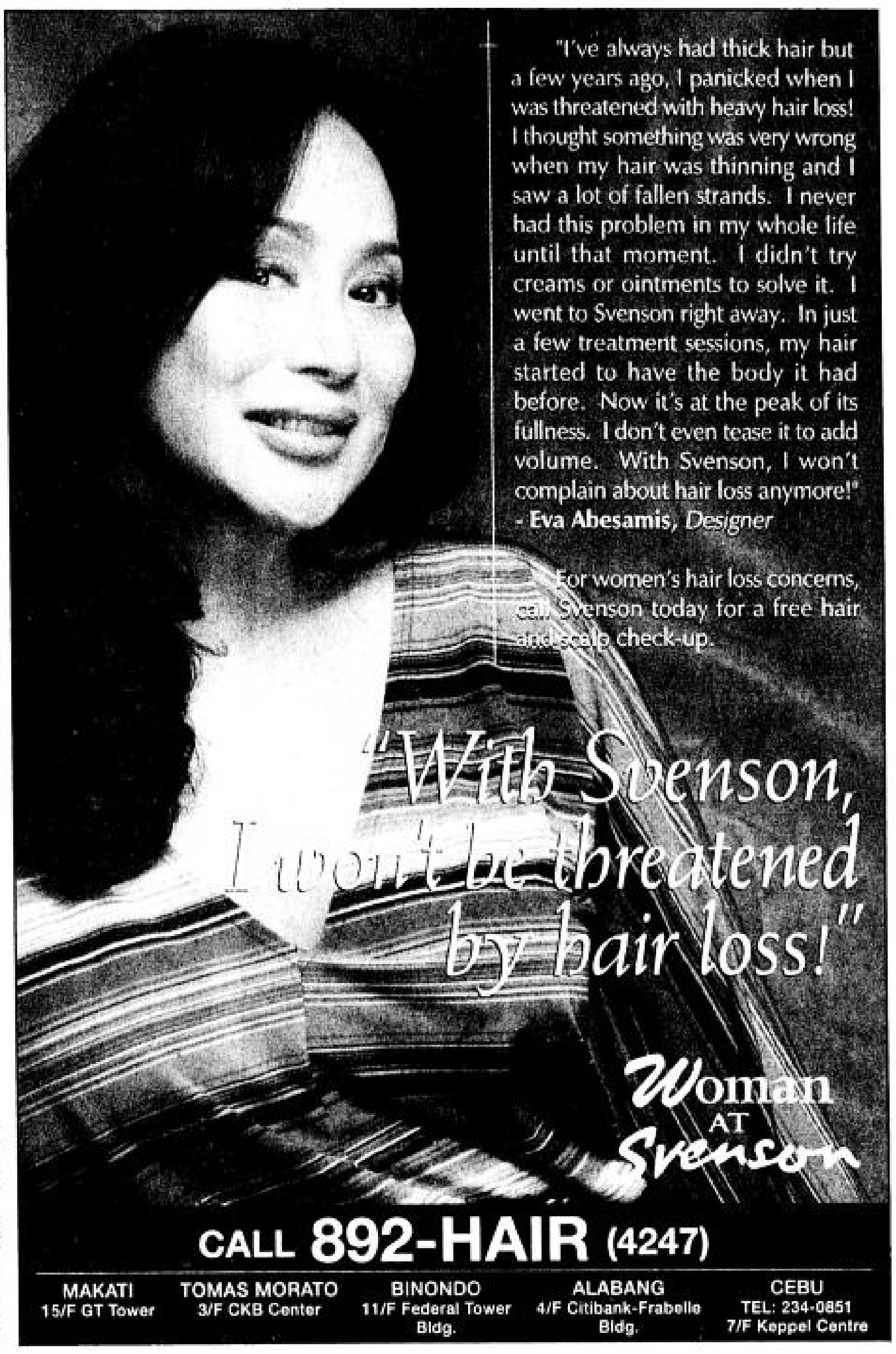
Exciting events lined up are the Lan Kwai Fong Summer Beer Festival, Knutsford Day, 2005 Canton Road Food Festival, Wine & Dine@Ashley, and Carnival of the Multinational Journey of the Motorcycle.

The 2005 Hong Kong Shopping Festival Lucky Draw offers 70 fabulous prizes worth HK$2.2million. The grand prize is a Rolex ladies diamond watch worth HK$500,000 sponsored by Oriental Watch.

HKTB is working with retail merchants and restaurants under the Quality Tourism Services scheme to offer visitor privileges. Privileges have been espe-

HONG KONG/ C2

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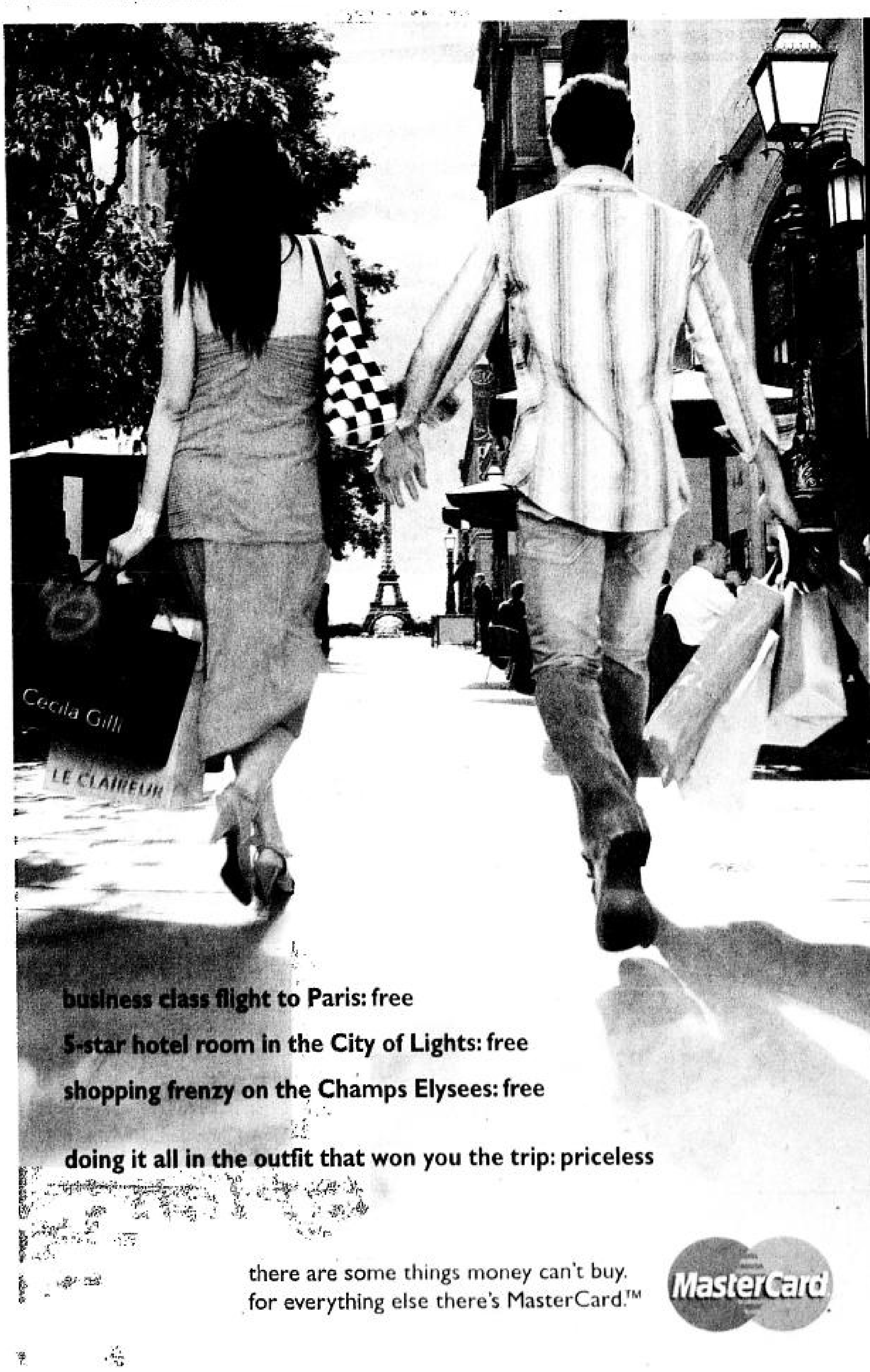
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2bU! gets serious

This week, we remove our masks of apathy and superficiality and leave them outside the door. We care about this country, so much that it hurts. We care about Filipinos, so much that we don't want to see them leave for abroad. Here are our thoughts on the wire-tapping scandal, sexual harassment, people power, tax burden and brain drain. You think we're indifferent, but you're wrong

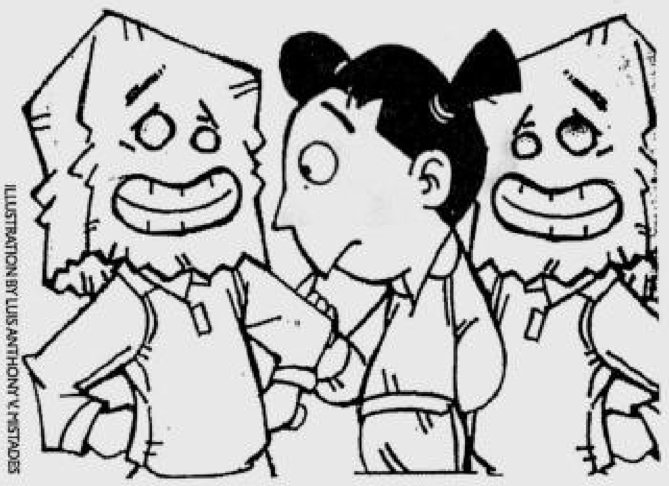

ILLUSTRATION BY LUIS ANTHONY V. MISTADES

Filipinos need a makeover

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

> We treat every national crisis with humor. But it is time to be serious

TURN on the news and you are likely to see a replay of Sammy Ong's "mother-of-all-tapes" video clip. Grab the June 13 issue of Time Magazine and you can't miss President Macapagal-Arroyo and her belief that as far as her term is concerned, "The Lord put me here." Open that anonymous forwarded text message and it is quite possibly a friendly warning of impending martial law in the country.

You know you've reached a new kind of low when your leader is labeled a cheat and a fraud. While a part of you is outraged, the communal reflex isn't exactly one of shock.

Ours may be a nation that is tired of its leaders, but more than that, we are a country that is losing its capacity to trust. Blame it on our pessimism and lack of energy that comes from centuries of colonization and decades-old bad governance that have made us a nation of doubters.

Blame it on the lack of education and more important, lack of analysis on our part as citizens, so that we let corrupt politicians get away with murder. Blame it on the moon, the alignment of the stars, your mother-in-law.

It is tough to sit down and ask ourselves "Where did it all go wrong, and have we ever gotten it right?"

The situation may be analogous to Watergate because of the wire-tapping, but the similarity ends there. The funny thing, as a friend of mine pointed out, is that no one in this scandal can keep his mouth shut long enough to be Deep Throat. Even more amusing are the ringtones that were based on this controversy, giving a strange new dimension to the term "political awareness." Yes, we people know how to get a few laughs.

Aside from taking to the streets, Filipinos are well-known for spoofing, parodying and poking fun as means of dealing with problems. I can't help but remember another Time Magazine piece ("The Science of Happiness," Feb. 28 issue). An essay by Alan Robles discussed the Filipinos' propensity for happiness—how it's not a goal, but rather, a "tool for survival." No need to overanalyze that bit there; with all the injustices and inequality that beleaguer the country, it is perhaps even ennobling to be able to smile through our troubles.

But sometimes I think that our tendency to clench our teeth and pretend to smile when things go wrong can backfire on us. And we don't even have to go into the political level. While our benevolent hospitality and trademark *pakikisama* are laudable, we sometimes end up masking our anger, letting it boil and bubble beneath a veneer of "The Stepford Wives" perkiness.

We have so much hidden rage, not just as a nation but also as individuals, so it's no wonder that we channel our irritation through passive-aggressive means of gossip, rumors and under-the-table dealings, making relationships crumble. And though it is admirable that Filipinos tend to be very sociable, the "lemming mentality" of those who gang up on people they don't like turns this worthy attribute into one that is reprehensible and, frankly, shameful.

I wish we could have a personality makeover, so that our aggressiveness is channeled at our work ethic, so that we could say what we mean and move on, express displeasure at things that warrant it, but also act on solutions so that we can move on to the next level. Don't let things remain unsaid, don't let people tell you what to do, and know how to strike a balance between the fun and the serious. And maybe, couples won't break up, co-workers can truly be friends, and husbands and wives can stay together for life.

Perhaps leaders will even remain faithful to what they say.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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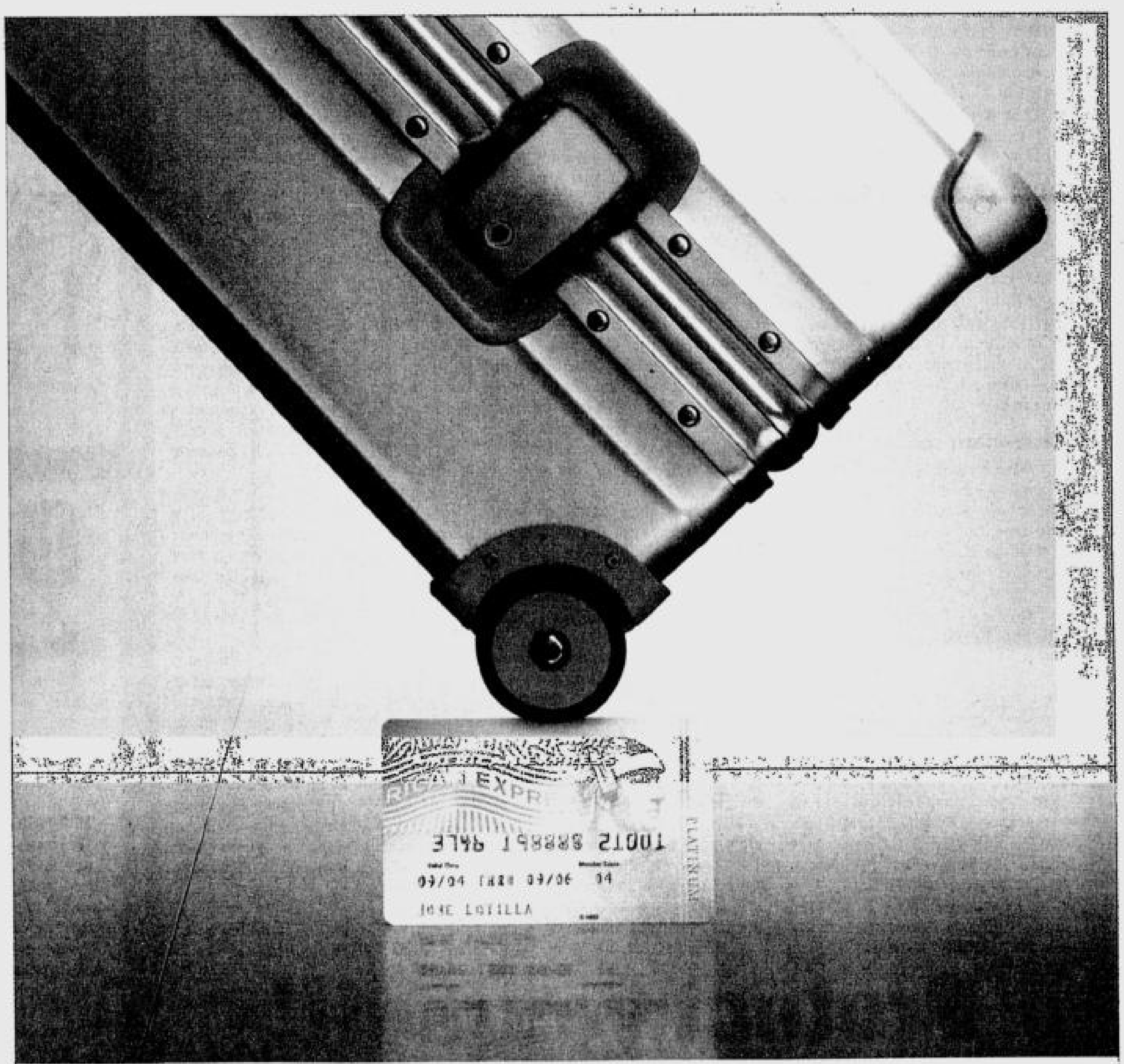

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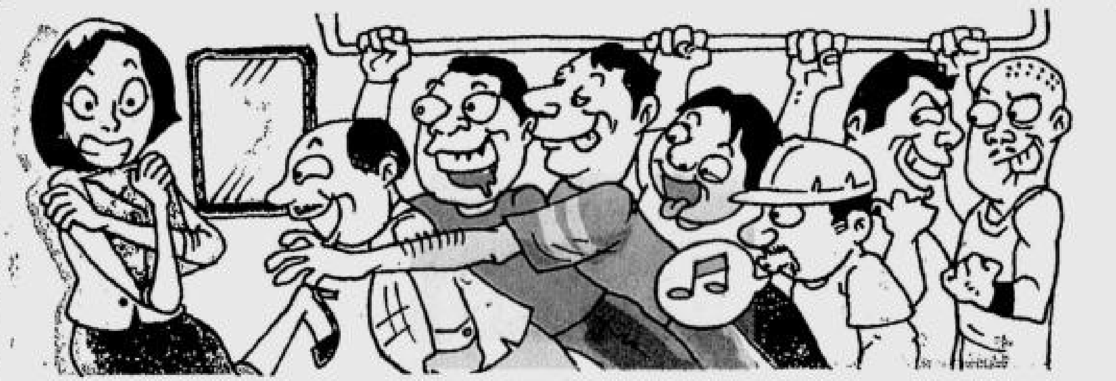

“Touch me not!”: Unmasking the plight of female commuters

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

(Disclaimer: This article does not in any way conclude nor imply that all men are gropers or perverts. Rather, this serves as a tug of conscience for those who are, and those who choose to do nothing about it.)

Sexual harassment, verbal or physical, happens every day on the MRT

A FEW days ago, I came home fuming mad. I had passed some construction workers on a side street on the way home from school, and they hooted and made lewd comments at me. Tired, sweaty and ever the hothead, I couldn't resist yelling, *“Sana 'wag mambastos, 'di ba?!”* and shot them a withering look. I was so frustrated that I couldn't do anything else, but at the same time, I was afraid for my safety. I usually ignore people like that while commuting, but after a grueling, sweltering day, it was the last straw. Why should I hold my tongue when these creeps are allowed to wag theirs?

My mom listened patiently as I ranted, and when I'd finished, she gently told me, *“Anak, mag-ingat ka. Pasalamat ka nga na hanggang hirit lang sila.”*

That made me stop and think.

I remembered the instances when I or my friends would encounter *manyaks* while walking home or riding in public transportation, or be groped by unseen perverts amidst the mob of people inside a packed MRT during rush hour. What do we do? We'd just swallow our pride, walk even faster and comfort ourselves with vengeful thoughts of pummeling those lecherous louts to a bloody pulp. But in reality, what do we do? Nothing—after all, is there anything else we can do?

Chauvinistic society

Sexual harassment, whether verbal or physical, happens to female commuters everyday, and it's about time that people are made aware of the precarious situation they—we—are in. Some guys may not notice it, but even the slightest whistle or lewd stare can have a traumatic effect on women. What's even worse is when they know fully well that it's insulting, yet they still do it for the sheer heck of it. They do this despite the possibility that their own mothers, sisters, wives or daughters may also be experiencing the same offensive acts from other perverts.

In an article in the Christian Science Monitor.com, Lorraine Corner, Southeast Asia director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, said, “Why are men in Thailand so free to harass women?” But the real question is, “Why are men so free to harass women?” Because it makes them feel good about themselves. Because it satisfies their minor sexual urges. Because it establishes their superiority over the “weaker sex.” According to Samu Yamamoto, Japan's most (in)famous reformed *chikan* (Japanese term for “groper”), some men have even told him that it's a way for them to relieve stress. And, oh, how often have I heard the phrase, “Blame it on raging hormones?” As if having common decency has got anything to do with testosterone levels.

Some guys have the gall to pin the blame on women who they claim dress provocatively, even though they're just wearing everyday clothes. Picture this: a young *colegiala* gets whistled at because she's wearing a snug-fitting shirt. A student in a white skirt is ogled at by a fellow passenger because her legs are showing. Even a regular working girl is groped because she happens to be pretty. Oh, so now it's our fault? Gee, thanks a lot.

But on a macroscopic scale, we find out that the roots of this problem run deeper than we think. Looking at the external factors will tell you it's actually more of a social issue than anything else. Lack of education would be a major player, obviously. Of course, the lack of good manners and proper conduct in public places is also a problem. Then there's the fact that those in power don't seem to be doing anything about this. Sure, there's the Republic Act No. 7787, also known as the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, but this mainly applies to employees and students and not commuters.

Why do men sexually harass women? Bottom line is, because they can—and will—get away with it. We still live in a chauvinistic society; sad, but true. But *pambabastos* is still *pambabastos*, whatever the underlying reason may be. It's bad enough that we're called the “weaker sex,” but rubbing it in by rubbing against us is downright deplorable. How to knock some sense into those creeps? I say kick 'em in the head; either one is fine. But that's just me.

Skirting the issue?

Things have gotten so disturbing in some parts of the world that the authorities have taken measures in an effort to control it. In Bangkok, the “Lady Buses” have just been launched. In Tokyo, train cars and even certain commercial areas have “Women Only” signs firmly tacked on their doors. Even here in smoggy Metro Manila, the old LRT now has separate cars for males and females.

This type of “segregation” might seem like a good idea, but implementing such changes has raised a whole gaggle of serious and sensitive questions. What happens to elderly or disabled males? Don't they deserve to be prioritized, too? Or worse, if I don't ride in a ladies-only train car, does it mean I'm asking to be groped? God, I sure hope not.

There are a lot of questions that people are clamoring to be addressed, but they all boil down to one: Is gender segregation really the solution, or is it a sign of concession in the face of a pressing social problem? Gender equality activists strongly support the latter, arguing that it doesn't nip the problem in the bud; rather, it only makes adjustments to accommodate the problem.

At this point, it's futile to debate on whether it protects women's rights or insults them, as both sides present sensible arguments. All I know is that it would be a huge advantage here in Manila. Let's face it, the number of sexual harassment encounters coupled with the ever-increasing crime rate isn't exactly a comforting thought. Having said that, I strongly believe that safety is the first and foremost issue here.

The struggle continues

It might be just a minor itch, but for those of us who have to face the perils of commuting in skirts everyday, it might as well be a festering sore. Yes, I admit that I am scared to death. But my disgust for people who do those things to women far outweighs my fear. I hate sexual harassment with a passion, and I hate the perpetrators even more. If I must suffer, I certainly won't suffer in silence. I will speak up, and I will fight back.

Right now, I can only voice out the helplessness and frustration that I'm sure every other harassed commuter must be feeling as well. But as they say, awareness is the first step, and maybe those in power would be spurred to actually do something about it.

Besides, I believe that we're not fighting a losing battle. I'm glad that there are still gentlemen commuters out there who readily give up their seats, open doors for other people and have the decency not to stare at certain female body parts. One can only wish that, with the proper education and social awareness, there will be more of these blessed people to make commuting a more pleasant experience.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@atenista.net.

Protect yourself!

WE'RE all sick and tired of being leered, whistled and groped at while commuting. Who isn't? But until someone comes up with the ultimate solution, here are a few tips from experience that you can use to avoid being harassed (or at least keep your dignity intact):

Ignorance is bliss. Part of the pleasure men get out of verbally harassing women is actually getting a reaction from them, and I learned this the hard way. Don't give them what they want—ignore them completely, however crass the comments may be. Trust me, you'll get the last laugh.

Do some research. You'll be surprised at how much literature you can gather about sexual harassment. Master *chikan* Yamamoto has released three books based on his personal experiences and, quite surprisingly, he got many letters from women telling him how they've used his books to protect themselves. Grab a copy or two.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Don't set yourself up. Wear discreet clothing when commuting. Make sure your top or skirt isn't exposing anything to the world. It sucks not being able to wear whatever you want, I know, but it's better than attracting the wrong kind of attention.

Speak out. If you strongly suspect that the guy beside you has deliberately touched you more than once (and the other passengers also seem to have noticed this), tell him to stop in the most polite yet firm tone you can manage—nothing like a little public humiliation to put him in his place. Then again, this method might invite an even bigger danger, so try to avoid doing this as much as possible.

Look tough. It's an unspoken fact that gropers tend to target timid, naïve-looking women, just like muggers do. Don't let fear or worry show in your face. Intimidation is the key.

Learn self-defense. Take up judo or boxing classes. When worse comes to worst, at least you'll know how to defend yourself. Or if you're not physically up for it, learn the dark arts instead, like how to make ugly boils grow on his butt. Just kidding.

Angela V. Ignacio

Rule of the m

People power has failed us

By Javier Mata
2bU! Correspondent

PREVIOUS people power revolts epitomized poetic justice (something Filipinos always love). Whether it be a fight against injustice or corruption, we love the idea that the will of the people can triumph. Yet this is nothing more than a façade. People power has destroyed us as a people. We have destroyed democratic institutions in the name of the same democracy.

Say what you will about People Power 1 and 2. It doesn't change the fact that they were essentially tools of anarchy. It instilled the idea in Filipinos that it is actually okay to disregard democratic processes and break them (and then tell ourselves later that we were act doing it for democracy's sake).

Don't get me wrong, I am thankful that a tator no longer rules us. I also believe would only have led us to ruin. But we ha understand that the actions we used to f these results have consequences that we now only starting to realize.

We have learned to shoot first and ask tions later. We now jump the gun every something bad happens (and then wonder justice in our country doesn't work). We essentially disregarded courts in favor of l mobs and witch burnings.

Take People Power 2, for example: Wh believe that Erap was guilty I would have preferred a judge to actually declare it. V

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Modern

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

IS IT just me who thinks this country is losing its best and brightest minds?

For some reason, I feel that an invisible hand is leading people out of this country to a promised land—basically anywhere outside the Philippines. Like animals caught in a great flood, we're all going with the flow.

I think, to start with, this country has suffered a great deal from colonial mentality. Three hundred years under the Spaniards, half a century under the Americans, a few years with the Japanese and months (weeks, actually) with the British have done a major damage to our national ego and ruined the future of many Filipino youths.

I feel we have lost so much of our identity as a country and as a people.

Though we Filipinos have always thought ours is a great nation, I've always suspected we feel inferior to everybody else on this earth. By working in another country and adopting its culture, a Filipino seems to feel he has moved a notch higher than those still in this country.

Filipino dream

For some time now, a lot of people have been dreaming of leaving this country. It's like everything good and bountiful is outside the Philippines.

This phenomenon has steadily grown in the past five or so years. And many of us embrace it like it will actually hold off judgment day.

While I commend our overseas Filipino workers for their sacrifice—being away from their families and literally gambling with their lives in countries totally unknown to them—I feel bad that they serve people they barely

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Government taxing to us,

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

Where do our taxes go? To political billboards that trumpet politicians' virtues as the country goes down the drain

IT PAINS me immensely every time to see 10 per cent slashed off my paycheck as taxes. Although at first, a couple hundred pesos or so doesn't seem much, but when multiplied by 10, I find myself P2,000 poorer than I should be each month. The amount equals gas money for the month, 20 value meals at a fast-food joint, several pairs of Havaianas, and a big pile of second-hand books. Other people have it worse, though--their tax goes up to 40 percent in some cases. That's almost half of their hard-earned money going to the BIR.

In comparison, it shouldn't be such a big deal in my case, but that's still two thousand going down the drain every month, down the pockets of rather uncaring government officials. It is a thought that bothers me every time I bump my way through dusty, potholed roads, while various politicians smile down benevolently at motorists through brightly colored billboards. “This street lighting project is made possible by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo,” proclaim hundreds of posters featuring GMA's martyred face.

It is a huge waste of resources to have those useless posters and billboards printed, and it's unfair to the taxpayers. Imagine all those hours spent at your desk, slaving away for your paycheck, only to have a substantial amount slashed off at the end of the month to finance huge color prints of some politician's grinning mug.

There are even bottles of mineral water advertising the president—and let's not forget the MRT and LRT cards, health cards, calendars, and other everyday essentials that are unwittingly turned into propaganda material. The practice of putting a politician's face on every visible area on their “territory” is so widespread, it has become SOP.

This is w
your ta

Photos of politicians in their formal wear with the flag of the Philippines in the background, distributing relief goods, politicians rolling up their sleeves and working with the masses—but only for photo-ops. But those photos give many trapos the license to say that they “know how the people feel.”

Really.

Take, for example, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye's piece on the two-peso fare hike a couple of months ago. “Two pesos? That's just (the cost of) two text messages,” he said. For many people, especially students, P2 is nothing to sniff at, es-

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Because there is one basic tenet of justice that we are forgetting: No matter how guilty he looks like, a person is innocent until proven guilty. To this very day, the guilt of Estrada has not been established.

How can we say that the impeachment trial was a failure when we didn't even let it finish? And as much as I dread the return of someone like the former President, we have to bear in mind that he never actually explicitly said that he resigned. Yet, we somehow twisted the law to say that he did "in spirit."

People wondered why the international community looked down upon People Power 2 and 3. It's got nothing to do with guilt or consequence, it's about principles. It's about whether the end justifies the means.

With everything happening right now, one might think that nobody really gives a hoot about democracy. We forget that democracy is far more complex than that. It includes the protection of the rights of every single individual regardless of class and adherence to the law.

I know what some of you are thinking: the government is too corrupt, the justice system doesn't work, the suffering of the people demands drastic action and thus, popular revolt is justified.

But is democracy worth saving if we continue to disregard its mechanisms? To be a true follower of democracy you have to follow all its tenets—not just the ones that are convenient for you.

That is essentially what people power has done: it has given power to the mob and opened the way for "trial by emotion." No objectivity, just heated debates and accusations.

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lipinos are scattered all over the world. I
uncles who have served in the United
s Navy. I have cousins who are nurses in
lon. I have friends who migrated to Cana-
have relatives working in the Middle East.
thousands more, millions even, of Fil-
s are planning to leave this country one
or another, sooner or later.

along with many of my fellow Filipino
h, find this phenomenon disheartening. Is
country really going to the dogs? Is our
not green enough? Why can't we stay and
this country get back on its feet? Has the
ppines really become a God-forsaken
? Are we going to self-destruct any
ute?

lars and cents

metimes I ask why we give too much at-
on to people who have made it in the US.
hat if they make thousands of dollars there
minimum wage earners here get less than
a month? Does that make them better
us?

aybe it's time we take notice of Aling Linda who makes a living selling produce at the Balintawak Public Market. Or Mang Bobet who sends his kids to school by driving a trolley in Pandacan. They, along with the rest of the Filipinos still in this country, are making a living the best way they know how.

Sometimes we forget how we all can make living conditions in this country better by sticking together.

I guess today's Filipino youths continuously find themselves in crossroads. With technology continuing to grow and globalization knocking at our doors, we have to be prepared for anything. We have to be constantly on our toes and make sure we survive as a people, as a nation.

Sure, we Filipinos are probably the best nurses and caregivers the US and the UK can find but the Filipino people need nurses and caregivers, too. And it is funny that many doctors are now training to be caregivers or nurses so they can leave this country.

Filipinos are considered among the best teachers in the world but at the rate they are leaving for overseas jobs, the decline in quality of the Philippine educational system will likely continue for several more years.

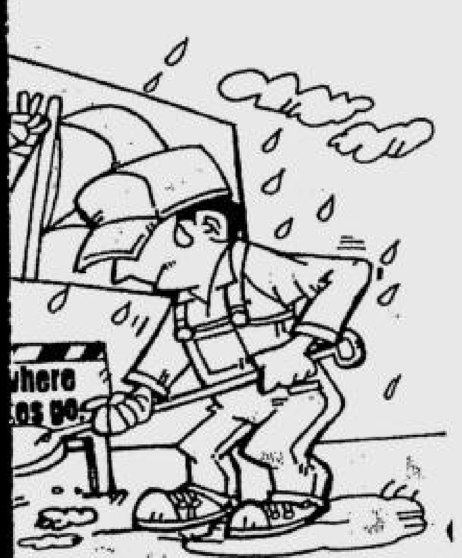
Are we just going to let the world get the best of what we have?

We need all the talent, intellect and commitment we can get. It's sad that all that is going away. I know everyone promises to come back, full of treasures and experiences. But when? When there is no longer a Philippines to come back to?

Maybe it's time we get those people back. For all we know, the promised land may be right here.

E-mail the author at s_a_l_e_e_m_a@yahoo.com

is simply taxpayers



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pecially if they have to shell it out several times a day. It shows just how detached from reality the people in power are.

If government officials insist on going around the streets of Manila in black Mercedes Benzes, surrounded by flashy white Expeditions, then they really will not see the value of an extra two pesos. Or the real state of the country, for that matter. The President recently lashed out at her detractors for attempting to destabilize the government when apparently, the economy grew by so-and-so percent.

However, it is not so easy for people on the street to measure prosperity by the growth of the GDP and so on and so forth—the gauge, for many of them, is through the prices of commodities, a drop in the crime rate, and by the number of jobs available, not by some abstract numbers on a chart, no matter what government officials insist.

Rather than spouting out empty words that don't mean anything, isn't it time that government officials went to the streets to see the real state of the country? Too often, many of them release irresponsible statements, only to take them back hastily because of public outrage. But the damage is done--already, we are shown how clueless the people who govern us really are.

Sure, there are a few public servants who really do want to make a difference, but they are few and far between. And even they are forced to "advertise" themselves sometimes just to show their constituents they are doing something. But for the person with the highest position in the land, it is completely unnecessary.

While there is no excuse for not paying taxes, you cannot help but sympathize with the tax evaders--they work themselves to the bone, only to have it taken away by a government that magically evaporates the funds. Other countries have higher taxes, but at least you can see where the taxes go. On this side of the world, government-run institutions are dismissed with "Gobyerno kasi, eh."

How could we have gotten used to this way of thinking? It isn't fair to anyone--least of all the taxpayers--to simply accept and take things as they are. We are used to not knowing what happens to our taxes, used to accepting whatever flimsy explanation given to us. By not demanding change, we shortchange everyone. Especially ourselves.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

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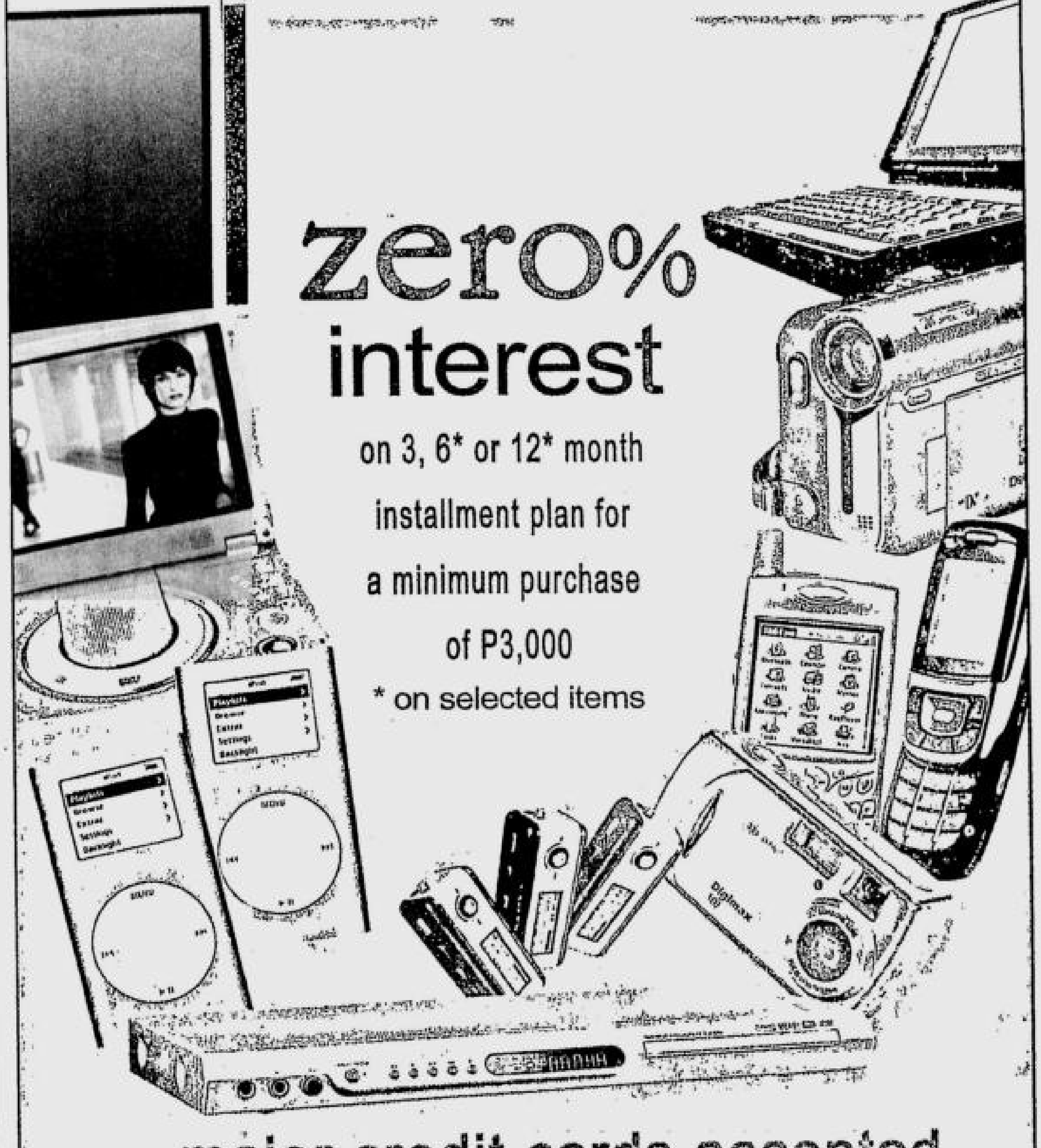

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Messages

THE FILIPINO has always excelled in every endeavor he has set for himself whether in sports, arts or sciences. Name any industry and at least one innovator or one great mind who could match the best and even lead in the global arena unfailingly emerges. As we converge in this year's ICT Business Summit in Cebu, we recognize yet another area -- software development -- where the Filipino has the unlimited potential for excellence.

Today, the world economy turns on digital wheels. The global village is no longer a mere concept but a reality. It is encouraging to know that the Filipino, true to his natural ability to adapt to every new situation, has risen to meet the challenges of the information and technological age. I, therefore, commend the members of the local IT industry for investing enormous time and effort in this field to make the Philippines a competent force in the global IT economy. Their faith in the Filipino has been rewarded. Your government and your fellow Filipinos are proud of you and will support your initiatives.

I am confident that your summit will enable the industry to scale new heights and, in the process spur nationwide progress. Congratulations to the organizers and the participants for a job well done.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MY WARMEST greetings to the delegates, exhibitors and visitors of the Conference and Exhibition on Business and ICT (C.E.B.U. ICT) 2005.

I recall being here four years ago for the Cebu IT Summit that launched Cebu as the premiere Philippine investment destination for IT and IT-related industries. Towards this end, I am happy to note that you have aggressively pursued initiatives to advance the development of the Cebu ICT sector. As the first IT Hub to be declared after Manila, the province now boasts of almost 20 companies engaged in IT-enabled services.

Over the years, we have seen the phenomenal growth of the IT and IT-enabled services sector in the Philippines. For the contact center industry alone, there has been a tremendous growth from 1,500 seats in 2000 to almost 60,000 seats this year. This clearly shows the tremendous potential of the ICT sector in terms of job and revenue generation.

With the theme "Asia's Emerging Role as a Global Center for ICT and IT-Enabled Services", this first-ever international conference-cum-exhibition highlights the many challenges and opportunities in the ICT sector. Thus, I see this event as a venue for stakeholders to reach out to new markets, network with potential clients and sustain investor interest in the Philippines.

On this note, I would like to thank our partners in the industry and our resource persons in making this event a success.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

IT IS with great satisfaction that I welcome an event where the industry, academe, and government have come together with one purpose: to drive the software industry forward. As we open Cebu ICT 2005, we recognize the power of software development as a tool for our economic and social growth. It is through job generation that we can uplift the state of the Filipino, and it is in the IT sector that a great number of these jobs lie.

As we all cooperate to effect changes and enable the IT sector, we are paving the way for our progress as a nation. There is no better time for us to seize this opportunity. The inherent talent and skill of the Filipino IT professional will steer us forward in the global race to development, and we must all do everything in our power to support him and create chances for him to reach his full potential.

We all look forward to the day when the Filipino professional will not have to leave home and the country will be a thriving center of knowledge and information. As we take these first steps to make that vision a reality, I congratulate all the members of the Philippine software industry and I wish us luck on the journey to the year 2010.

Mabuhay!

VIRGILIO L. PEÑA
Secretary
Chairman, CICT

SINCE its inception, Microsoft Philippines has sought to help companies and individuals move forward by harnessing their true potential. With this year's Cebu ICT, Microsoft welcomes the opportunity to be a part of history as it watches an industry and a nation step into tomorrow.

Already efforts are being made by some of the finest minds in the country to ensure that the Philippines will be able to take its place as a leader in the global software development arena. As we come together now to realize our vision for the Philippine software industry, we celebrate the Filipino intellect and its limitless capability to create innovative, revolutionary products.

Microsoft truly believes that technology improves lives by empowering people, and we are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with our partners in the industry, academe, and government as we turn that belief into a reality and raise our country to new heights.

Mabuhay!

ANTONIO JAVIER JR.
Country Manager
Microsoft Philippines

Fly High 2010

Proudly Pinoy: Software products from the Philippines go global

IN TAIPEI, countless commuters are using contactless cards to pay for all types of public transportation; in Tokyo, Japanese teenagers buy movies and music through one-of-a-kind multimedia kiosks; in Russia, kids battle with tikbalangs and diwatas who speak in their local dialect; and every workday, 10,000 users from the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, China, and other Asia Pacific countries log on and do their work on ERIC. These products, though vastly different in use and in language, have one thing in common -- they are all proudly Philippine-made.

Unknown to many, Philippine software products are now landing on foreign shores. These world-class products are automating and revolutionizing businesses all over Asia, in the U.S. and Europe, proving once and for all that Filipino ingenuity can be put to good use in software creation.

The software development industry has a lot of untapped potential for our nation's growth. An informal survey done among the members of the Philippine Software Industry Association revealed that software development activities generated seven billion pesos in revenue in 2004. Not bad considering the survey had only 54 respondents.

Software development has many advantages: physical resources do not limit it, it doesn't have to compete on a cost basis, and its revenue is exponential. This means a product is made only once but can be sold an unlimited number of times.

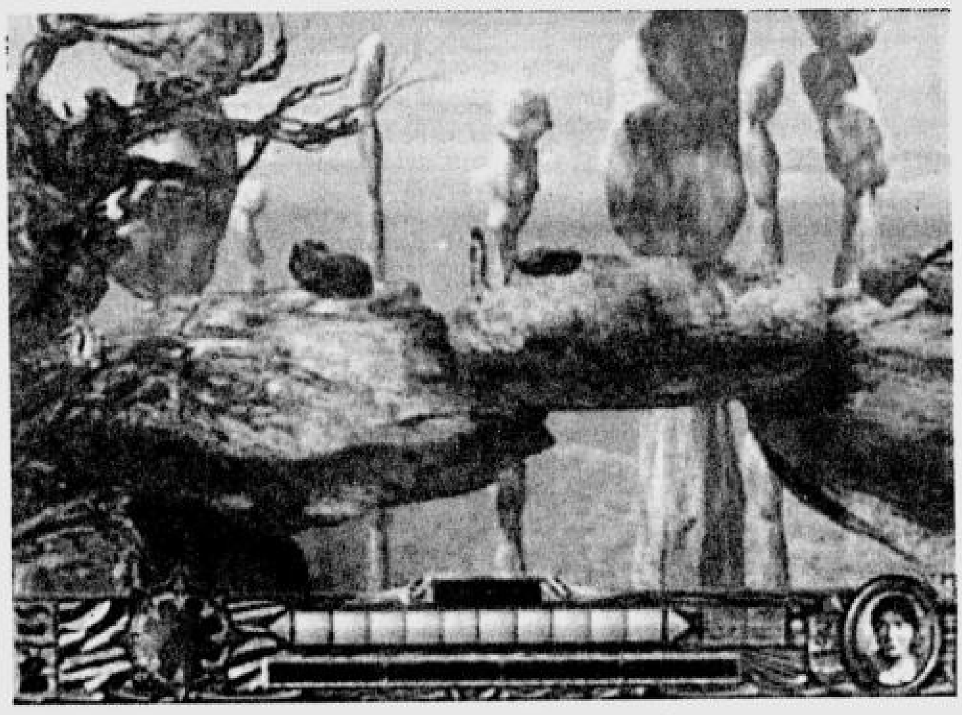
The field of software development is magical. It's only limitation is the developer's imagination.

Indeed, with a limitless supply of imagination, a software developer creates solutions and products geared at helping the different industries work efficiently. He creates products that provide communication tools and environment for people in different parts of the world. And with every stroke of the keyboard, he can change for the better the way we live and work.

The Philippines is in a good position to market itself as a future hub for software creation. Our skilled developers create innovative products that can compete in the world market. Although outsourcing software development to the Philippines is not as well-known as compared to India and Ireland, foreign companies have been taking a more serious look at the capabilities of our local developers. Below are examples of world-class Filipino software products that are being widely used in other countries:

> Indeed, with a limitless supply of imagination, a software developer creates solutions and products geared at helping the different industries work efficiently. He creates products that provide communication tools and environment for people in different parts of the world.

PROUDLY pin made, the automat fare collection syst currently being u throughout the City Taipei, is a contactl card that can be us to pay rail, bus or c park f



ANITO, the first Filipino-made computer game, is sold in ten countries.

Anito: Defend a Land Enraged

PC Games

Anino Entertainment

According to its founders, Anino Entertainment was formed out of stubborn perseverance and uncompromising perfectionism. Established in 2001, it develops and produces world-class quality video games that are not only commercially profitable but are imbued with a distinctive style that is unmistakably Filipino.

The company's first creation is Anito: Defend a Land Enraged. Released for the PC platform, it is a role-playing game that features elements taken from Filipino and other Asian folklore and culture. In Anito, users choose to play Maya or Agila, the children of a local Datu who has mysteriously disappeared. They discover different tribes, fight creatures such as the tikbalang, and solve puzzles during their epic journey.

Since its release in 2003, Anito has been sold in 10 countries and ported into a Russian version. It was also a finalist in the 2004 Independent Games Festival (considered the Sundance of the game industry), where it took home the Excellence in Audio award.

Automated Fare Collection System

Utilities

Headstrong

Two hundred projects have been completed by Headstrong all over the world in 15 years. Headstrong, a global IT consultancy firm, has offices across North America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific. But it is its office in Manila where the Automated Fare Collection System was developed.

The automated fare collection system is a contactless card that can be used to pay rail, bus, or car park fees, and can be reloaded through add value machines, manned ticket kiosks, or bank account auto-debit. Contactless cards have the added benefit of eliminating the need to extract cards or coins while entering gates/vehicles. The card can also be used for telephones and in chain stores and fast food outlets.

It is currently being used throughout the City of Taipei via the Taipei Smart Card Corporation (TSCC).

Digiraku

Retail

ADTX Systems, Inc.

Majority of the employees of ADTX Systems, Inc. speak Nihongo due to their strong position in the Japanese market. ADTX is a Manila and Cebu-based software company that is ISO-9001 certified and is currently taking initiatives toward CMMI Level 3 assessment.

One of its products which is highly popular in Japan is Digiraku, which loosely translates into "digital entertainment." Digiraku is a stand-alone multimedia kiosk and is the only product of its kind in the market today. People can now purchase movies, music, and software from Internet cafes or train stations in the same way they buy soft drinks or cigarettes from vending machines. Using Digiraku, they can view multimedia and make selections using a touch screen. Once they've made a selection, Digiraku then writes the item onto DVD, CD, or memory stick.

It is used in Japan through Frefar Networks, a leading Japanese multimedia distribution company, and ADTX Japan, one of the leaders in storage solutions technologies and businesses in Japan. Digiraku was a finalist in the 2005 e-Services Philippines Best Product/Service Award.

Donation and Commodity Tracking System

Non-profit

RCG Information Technology

RCG Information Technology is a three-decade leader in IT professional services. It serves more than 360 clients, including 43 of the Fortune 100 companies. RCG's Offshore Delivery Center in Manila, where the Donation and Commodity Tracking System was created, is assessed at Level 5 of the CMMI.

In 2002, a worldwide charitable organization began searching for IT solution providers in Asia in an attempt to generate local job opportunities. They focused their search on the Philippines, and eventually contacted RCG Information Technology, whose core competencies matched their requirements. RCG was engaged to create the Donation and Commodity Tracking System.

Nineteen offices worldwide now use the Donation and Commodity Tracking system to generate and manage fundraising profiles of donors. It accounts for different tax and bank laws in individual countries, and tracks the receipt and distribution of funds. It enables users to continue managing growing numbers of contributors and their donations more efficiently and cost-effectively for the benefit of populations in developing countries.

Elaborate Mobile Information Retriever (ELMER)

Mobile applications

Electronic Science Corporation

Started in the year 2000, eScience Corporation is a software development company pioneering in high-impact products and applications that capitalize on emerging wireless technologies. It has pioneered many products and projects and has customers in Asia, Australia, and Europe. eScience has won numerous Regional Awards from Nokia and the Australian government for its outstanding mobile applications.

One such mobile application is the Elmer Server Suite. Elmer is an SMS application server that allows field personnel to send and retrieve information from corporate databases using their

PINOY/ E2

Philippine Software Industry 2010 Flight Plan

By Janette Toral

THE PHILIPPINES has been able to make a great impression on the international market, showing its decisiveness in becoming an outsourcing location of choice, especially in call centers and business process outsourcing.

However, in the software development field, it is a reality that most outsourcers have opted for India more than any other country for their software development outsourcing, especially for high-end mission critical projects.

Knowledge worker age

The Philippine software industry has been existent in the past three decades with more or less 400 companies. Its 2004 revenue is pegged at US$340 million. With an estimated labor size of 10,000 workers, the estimated revenue per software developer is at $34,000.

What makes this service sector special is it represents the age of the knowledge worker. In this age, the most valuable assets are the workers and their productivity. Intellectual capital is supreme as wealth is migrating from money and things to people.

Last June 3 and 4, there was a brainstorming session for the crafting of the Philippine Software Industry 2010 "flight plan." The country's three main software organizations led the discussion: the Philippine Software Industry Association, CebuSoft, and Association of Solution Integrators in Davao. Several government agencies also took part with the Commission on Information and Communications Technology taking the lead.

The workshop session was sponsored by Microsoft Philippines. It is part of the software company's effort to bolster the Philippines' competitive advantage and one-of-a-kind program in the region. The industry output will be presented in the Cebu ICT 2005 event this June.

The brainstorming focused on how to boost domestic demand for software, increase business in the international outsourcing market, and develop capacity through education and advocacy.

Workshop highlights and personal insights

In order for local software companies to thrive: their expertise must be harnessed through domestic software development projects; access to knowledge on vertical segment needs and financing resources; increase industry awareness to value of software in boosting efficiency; and competitive opportunities in bagging government projects.

The Congressional Oversight for the E-Commerce Law chaired by Senator Mar Roxas and Representative Junie Cua will, in its limited capacity, perform intervention to explore the creation of financing programs for SMEs wanting to gain access to ICT resources and software development companies requiring loans to fund ICT projects. Equitable opportunities, performance impact measurements, transparency, and full accountability shall be pushed as well in current and proposed e-government projects. This shall be done in coordination with the Commission on Audit, Department of Budget and Management, and the National Computer Center.

As the world becomes knowledge-intensive, recruiting, retraining, and nurturing talented people is crucial. Academe has to participate aggressively in improving depth and breadth of labor pool. Our capacity development efforts should not only look into training our college graduates but also in re-tooling career shifters, meeting the certification-based skills demand today. This is where the efforts of organizations like TESDA, DepEd, CHED, PhilNITS, CEDFIT, the Philippine Computer Society, and Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines comes into play.

The private sector can contribute further by adopting a school, donate computers, and train its teachers and students. With 400 companies in the software development sector adopting a school each, it will gradually empower 400 schools, at a minimum, nationwide.

The global market for software is huge. The Philippines already has its foot in the door and have every opportunity to bag projects in this area. Having a software development company's software processes certified is becoming a requirement in the selection process, especially in big projects. International market intelligence on project opportunities and future needs are necessary for development of capacity building programs. Proactive marketing needs to be done, but must be industry-association driven, through resource pooling and publishing of success stories. Having access to incentives, grants, and loans will be critical to sustain the energy and momentum of these efforts.

The private sector must work closely with the Board of Investments and Export Development Council to continuously check-and-balance the sector strategy for growth and supply the necessary data for effective decision-making. Lack of data sharing contributed to minor attention given and slow growth of the sector in the past.

Flight plan

Instead of an industry roadmap, the flight plan metaphor was used to emphasize the need for a breakaway growth strategy for the software industry that will contribute to President Arroyo's 10-point economic program.

The industrial-age command-and-control management style is already old-school. The knowledge-based economy requires us to move simultaneously, all unified with a common vision. Each one of us, as a stakeholder, has a role to play and can contribute to achieve this.

With a common vision and strategy, parties can take the identified or chosen flight routes to get to the destination the industry wishes to reach.

The challenge in its implementation is instilling a consistent and habitual 360 degrees feedback process so that alternatives can be taken into consideration by industry experienced navigators, as challenges are met in the course of the flight, so that we can all remain focused in meeting the target.

The Philippines may have a long way to go in becoming the leading software development player in the world. But if we all get aligned and committed in a common vision, our unrestrained creative excitement and cooperation will get us to our destiny. Towards greatness!

FLY HIGH

F Fifty software development companies aligned with international quality standards

L Locate operations of 50 foreign software development companies in the Philippines

Y Yes to Brand Philippines

H Hire 100,000 new software development workers and support improved Recruitment, Retooling and Retention

I Increase intellectual compliance rate for software by 3 percent per year

G Government software investment to increase 10 percent per year

H Have the social and physical infrastructure in place to support the industry's goals

5 PRIORITY ACTION AREAS

1. Grow the domestic demand for software
2. Develop skilled software professionals
3. Increase software exports
4. Improve intellectual property compliance
5. Build the infrastructure for industry growth

Gaining Ground: Philippine Software Associations

THE PHILIPPINE software industry is alive and thriving. From Manila to Cebu, all the way to Davao -software companies are working together to market Philippine-made software products both here and abroad. They're accomplishing this with the help of three local organizations: Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA), Cebu Software Development Industry Association, Inc. (Cebusoft), and the Association of Solution Integrators in Davao (ASID).

The three industry associations have been busy promoting their members. They have reached out and established links in other sectors, sourced international contracts and funding, and given members access to training and certification. Most importantly, they have formed a voice to create change within the IT industry and in other sectors.

Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA)

Organized in 1988, the main mission of the PSIA is to sell the Philippines as the preferred choice for software development services. PSIA has 54 member companies.

"While that may seem like a small number, we represent the critical mass of the industry in terms of revenue and employment," says Fermin Taruc, PSIA president.

PSIA has advocacies on market development, training and development, and quality that are concretized through training, seminars, certification, sourcing of funding, and other endeavors. It has worked with the government in developing policies, and aims to act as the representative of the Philippine software industry to both the government and external parties.

At the moment, all large software companies are represented in PSIA. One of the immediate goals is to increase membership among small to medium enterprises from all over the country.

Cebu Software Development Industry Association, Incorporated (CebuSoft)

CebuSoft is a relatively new organization. It was formed only last year by 15 software companies who wanted to find a way to reach the global market. Currently, it has 16 member companies, 10 percent of which cater to international clientele.

One of the ways CebuSoft assists its members is business matching. The association looks for clients seeking software products or services and then matches the clients with the member companies best suited to deliver the product. It also conducts capability-enhancement training in order to teach businesses to become more professional in their dealings with clients. CebuSoft is mapping out a marketing strategy to penetrate the Japanese and US markets, and most of the technical capability-building is geared toward this.

Executive director Virgilio Paralisan says, "Our long-term priority is to reach the global market. Right now, we are in the housekeeping stage."

"Housekeeping" means that the association is equipping members with the capability to comply with certain requirements of software development and providing them with the tools they need to deal with foreign companies. CebuSoft is in the process of mapping out niches for member companies to fill and it is offering culture and language training to technical professionals in order to prepare them to do so.

This year, the Chamber of Commerce included CebuSoft as implementing partner of the Cebu ICT 2005. The association was tasked with inviting companies to participate as delegates.

Association of Solution Integrators in Davao (ASID)

ASID is an organization of small-to-medium, Davao-based, SEC-registered IT companies. It has fifteen member companies, nine of which are software development firms. ASID first began in 1998 as ITS Davao, a professional's organization with individual members. The organization became incorporated as ASID in 2002, and since then it has been largely responsible for putting Davao on the IT map.

One of the major accomplishments of ASID has been to successfully influence the Davao government to IT-enable itself. SEC registration, reservation of business names, and even payment can now be done online. Another achievement of note is the ASID Solutions Expo, or ASID SEX, a hugely successful venture that has served to showcase the many IT products and services available in Davao.

"We formulated this plan to educate the market that there are IT products and services available in Davao and that they are as good as those in Manila, Cebu, or elsewhere," explains ASID president Oliver Robillo,

ASID has institutionalized its participation in the E-services Expo, which they have attended for three straight years and from which they brought home thirteen million pesos in potential contracts in 2004. It also encourages its members to attain CMMI certification by educating them on the requirement, lobbies to local government for support, and links up with other associations in Manila, Cebu, and abroad in order to garner contracts for its member companies and establish goodwill, as well as establish itself as a representative of the E-services sector of Davao.

Proudly Pinoy: Software . . .

From page E1

ELMER Server Suite is an SMS application server that allows field personnel to send and retrieve information from corporate database using their mobile phones

mobile phones. Sales agents and account managers can gather price information, check inventory of stocks, confirm credit history of a client, place sales orders, and check on delivery status-all without having to log on to a computer or come into the office. Elmer also captures mobile numbers to build its own database, and can be customized to automatically send personalized greetings to valued clients, send important reminders, send flash messages and business cards, acquire daily and quarterly target information, and more.

Elmer is packaged in such a way that you only purchase what you need. Each edition is built with features to meet a company's unique requirements. It was made available in early 2002 and since then has been successfully used by numerous financial and commercial organizations.

Softrigger Content Management System (SCMS)

Portals

Softrigger Interactive

Veterans in the fields of journalism, graphic design, animation, online strategy, web marketing, content creation, and programming make up the roster of specialists of Internet solutions company Softrigger Interactive. Softrigger Interactive is an end-to-end solutions provider which serves as consultant and partner to its clients from concept to launch and beyond.

One of Softrigger Interactive's products, the Softrigger Interactive Content Management System, was used to re-launch The Hollywood Blot, an online portal for humor and entertainment news that was inspired by the 1950s Hollywood smear magazines. The SCMS is a web-based software that allows website content managers/authors to manage their website content without the expertise of a Webmaster or web developer. Even users who are not skilled with HTML can create and modify content using a What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get (WYSIWYG) HTML Text Editor.

Aside from the Hollywood Blot, Watson Wyatt Asia Pacific and one of the largest semiconductor companies in the world are just some of the clients that have been using SCMS since as early as 2002.

Enterprise Resource and Information Control System (ERIC)

Enterprise Resource Planning

Jupiter Systems, Inc.

Jupiter Systems, Inc. has over 20 years of experience at providing solutions for the manufacturing and distribution industries. It has over 800 sites in six countries and maintains key man-

PINOY/E3

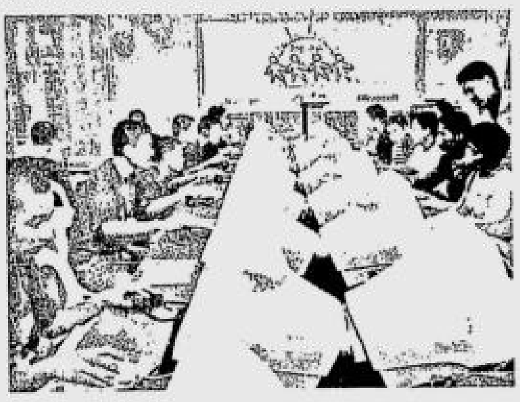
Microsoft focuses on building manpower skills in the Philippines

Digital inclusion programs empower more people with technology

IN A DAVAO public high school, a physics teacher prepares her PowerPoint presentation on the laws of motion. In Singapore, an overseas Filipino worker chats with her children while computing her employer's monthly household budget on Excel. These are a few of the many people who experience new levels of productivity, creativity, and empowerment with the help of an outreach program of Microsoft.

From underserved to empowered

Microsoft Unlimited Potential (UP) is a global initiative that focuses on improving lifelong learning for underserved young people and adults by providing technology skills through community-based technology learning centers (CTLCs).



Launched in June 2004, UP Pag-asa provides technology training to Amerasian youth who are displaced, out-of-school, and victims of discrimination, particularly since the removal of U.S. bases in the country. This UP grant is implemented in cooperation with Learn.ph who works with the People's Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation Center near Subic Freeport Zone, and the Manpower Skills and Training Center Don Bosco near Clark Development and Economic Zone.

"A lot of people like me aren't given many opportunities. I guess I'm fortunate to be part of this program. I'm learning a lot and I'm confident that I'll get a good job," said Shawn Dave Brooks, an Amerasian teenager in Subic.

While not on local shores, Singapore-based overseas Filipino worker Cristeta Gotchano feels closer to home with the help of UP Tulay, a program for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). Tulay provides basic computing skills to help more than three thousand OFWs maximize their potential while working abroad. The skills they learn will further help them gain a competitive edge should they decide to return home or pursue another career. Most importantly, the project also mitigates the social impact of working overseas by facilitating communication between migrant workers and their families via e-mail, video conferencing, and MSN chat.

"I miss my son very much. He's supposed to be by my side right now. But I'm happy that this program is here to help me be close to him even if we're miles apart," Cristeta explained.

A community of 21st century learners

Priscilla Yango has been teaching Mathematics to high school students since 1969. For almost 36 years, she has been computing the grades of her students with the help of a calculator. But for school year 2005, she has upgraded her class book to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet - thanks to a Microsoft Office Specialist training she attended last summer. She narrates: "Before, it took me to two days to three weeks to compute grades, but not anymore."

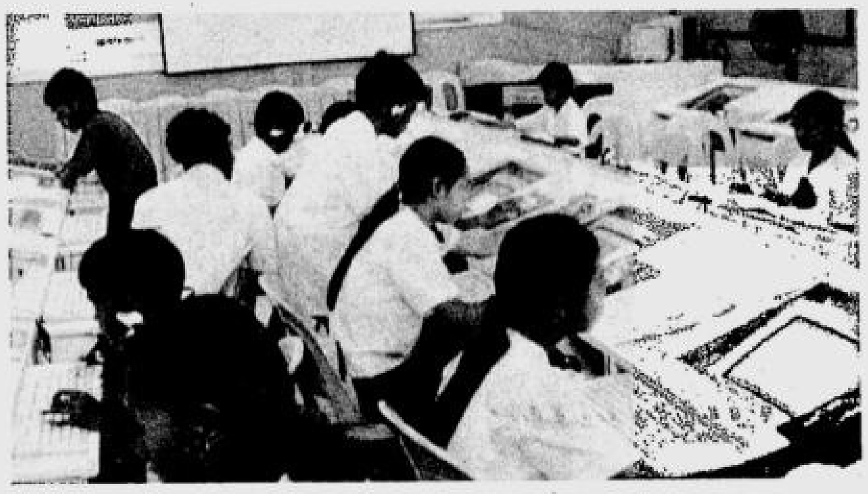
Yango is one of more than a thousand public high school teachers nationwide touched by Microsoft's Partners in Learning (PIL) program. PIL is a global initiative that recognizes the educational value of technology in schools, helping teachers teach technology and teach with technology. PIL is further a long-term commitment of Microsoft to partner with governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, schools, teachers and lifelong learners to establish an education ecosystem or Edusystem for continued advances in education, learning and manpower development.

"I realized that there are a lot of things that we can do with technology that will help the student and the teacher. Using technology is a way for us to teach them the appropriate use of computers, that it's not a just toy or a means of entertainment. This is a tool that will open the doors for our students to explore the world," said Sandee Janesse Bodikey, physics teacher of Davao del Sur National High School.

Microsoft's programs live out the company's mission to enable people to realize their full potential. The company believes that by providing the greater access to technology, people can do amazing things to improve their lives and their community - regardless of culture, language, socio-economic standing, and geography.

The company believes that by providing the greater access to technology, people can do amazing things to improve their lives and their community - regardless of culture, language, socio-economic standing, and geography.

Microsoft Unlimited Potential UP



Partners in Lea

'I realized that there are a lot of things that we can do with technology that will help the student and the teacher. Using technology is a way for us to teach them the appropriate use of computers, that it's not a just toy or a means of entertainment. This is a tool that will open the doors for our students to explore the world.'

-- Sandee Janesse Bodikey,
physics teacher
Davao del Sur National High School

Proudly Pinoy: Software products . . .

From page E2

Software development has many advantages: physical resources do not limit it, it doesn't have to compete on a cost basis, and its revenue is exponential. This means a product is made only once but can be sold an unlimited number of times.

agement and consulting resources for each territory. JSI's flagship product is the ERIC.

ERIC is a 100 percent Filipino developed ERP (enterprise resource planning) solution. Now on its 20th year, ERIC is installed in more than 800 sites. It is a specialized solution for businesses in Manufacturing and Distribution.

ERIC counts among its users global companies and brands like SC Johnson Philippines, Taisho Pharmaceuticals Philippines (Lipovitan), Sonia Trading in the Philippines (Asics and Mikasa), Interphil Laboratories, Hongkong Airport Services at Chep Lak Kok, and PT Daria Varia Laboratoria in Indonesia

Among the awards and recognitions received by ERIC over the years are: Microsoft Packaged Application of the Year 2003, the Golden Shell Rising Star Citation for Product and Marketing Excellence 2002, the eServices Best Mobile Application Award 2003 and the Excellent Product Award from the Hebei China IT Exhibition 2004.

Black Ops

Mobile Games
Anino Mobile

Anino Mobile, the sister company of Anino Entertainment, is involved in the development and production of excellent mobile games and other entertainment-related content for the mobile phone industry.

Anino Mobile's first mobile game is Black Ops, a squad-based tactical fighting game in which the player must lead a team of operatives on a number of missions to destroy hostile targets.Black Ops is available for Nokia Series 40 and 60 handsets, Sony Ericsson phones, with versions for other handset brands along the way. It will be launched in 23 countries worldwide.

Process Asset Library

Enterprise Resource Planning
ECC International

Since 1998, companies in Singapore, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines have been using solutions and programs provided by ECC International. ECC International offers services and expertise in key technology areas such as Internet-working, remote access, content management, and security.

Many clients have been transformed into paperless organizations through a product of ECC International, the Process Asset Library. The Process Asset Library is a web-based system that organizes documents into a comprehensive online database which is then accessible to all employees through user accounts. It also has other features, such as an organizational calendar, a quick search facility, and instant communication. The Process Asset Library is completely user-friendly and has customization features included in the system itself.

It has been used by various international manufacturing companies and some CMMI-certified software companies in India, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines since 2002.

Compass Standard V1

Enterprise Resource Planning
*e*Sprint Software*

e*Sprint Software is a Cebu-based company that was founded by 2004 Small Business Entrepeneur of the Year, Wilson Ng. Ng temporarily had to shelve his IT career after graduation when his father passed away, leaving him in charge of the family food business. He eventually formed his own corporation and named it Ng Khai Corporation in honor of his late father. In 2002, he formed e*Sprint, which offers value-added computing and services to corporations here and in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Asutralia, Germany, the Netherlands, and the U.S.

e*Sprint's product, Compass Standard V1, was first runner-up for Best Product in the e-Business Category during the e-Services Philippines 2005. Compass simplifies people's jobs by gathering all the functions you could possible need to run an office into one integrated software product at an incredibly low price. It takes care of essential things such as: workflow, to-do lists, activity reporting, groupware, document management, and project management.

Since it was rolled out from the production line early last year, Compass is now being used by more than 100 mostly IT companies and some companies in Japan.

ANINO ENTERTAINMENT
Website: www.aninoentertainment.com

HEADSTRONG
Website: www.headstrong.com

ADTX SYSTEMS, INC.
Email: info@adtxsystems.com

RCG INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Website: www.rcgit.com

ELECTRONIC SCIENCE CORP.
Email: marketing@electronicscience.net

SOFTRIGGER INTERACTIVE
Website: www.softrigger.com

JUPITER SYSTEMS, INC.
Website: www.jupitersystems.com.ph

ANINO MOBILE, INC.
Website: www.aninomobile.com

ECC INTERNATIONAL
Email: info@eccinternational.com

e*SPRINT SOFTWARE
Website: www.esprint.com

Philippine software industry becoming global solutions supplier

As the industry matures, the Philippines shifts from adopter to supplier role

The Philippines is emerging as a supplier of software applications to the world according to a recent study by an international research firm. Spending on information communications technology and a growing number of professional software programmers are the principal drivers of the shift from solutions adopter to solutions provider.

"Philippine firms have been able to increase ICT spending with the aim of increasing efficiency and enhancing competitiveness as a result of improved networks and the impact of the Internet on business processes. As a result, there has been a shift from mere technology adoption to technology creation with Philippine independent software vendors (ISVs) addressing the need for customized software solutions by domestic firms.

"Concurrently, the number of trained, professional software programmers has increased in response to demand for original application development as PC penetration increased and infrastructure improved," explained Lauro Vives, global managing partner of research firm XMG-Market Intelligence.

"Over the last few years the Philippines' capacity for developing original software applications therefore has increased significantly - to the point that the software industry has the resources to supply more than just the domestic market," Vives said.

Fermin Taruc, president of the Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA) said that the results of the study are aligned with the experience of the association's members. "There is a clear, marked shift toward export of original applications," he said.

To sustain that trend, Vives said that the Philippines should continue to focus on developing drivers responsible for the industry's development. "There are a couple of things that government can do, even with its limited resources," said Vives. "First, it can make it easier for companies to invest in technology by fostering competition among technology suppliers, and rewarding companies for investing in technology.

"Second, and this is something the government is already doing, is to strengthen educational infrastructure by strengthening curricula. It can also encourage the private-sector to invest in technology by further liberalizing the sector."

Vives said that in addition to these things, government should foster the development of independent software vendors. "Startups should have access to investor incentives, such as those offered by the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority," he said.

Other countries identified as net suppliers of software applications to global markets include Israel, Russia, and India. Although China is a major supplier of software solutions, Vives said that China's software exports are offset by software inputs. High ICT spending by governments in these countries will eventually make them all net consumers of software applications. He expects the Philippines to continue to develop as a supplier of software applications.

Damien Mapa, a Commission on Information Communication & Technology commissioner, said that the study is useful as a baseline for developing strategic objectives for the Philippine software industry. "The results of this study show us where we are and provide alternatives for where we want to go, and how we can get there. By developing a consensus within the industry for where we want to go, we can get there faster, creating jobs even more rapidly while accelerating exports."

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